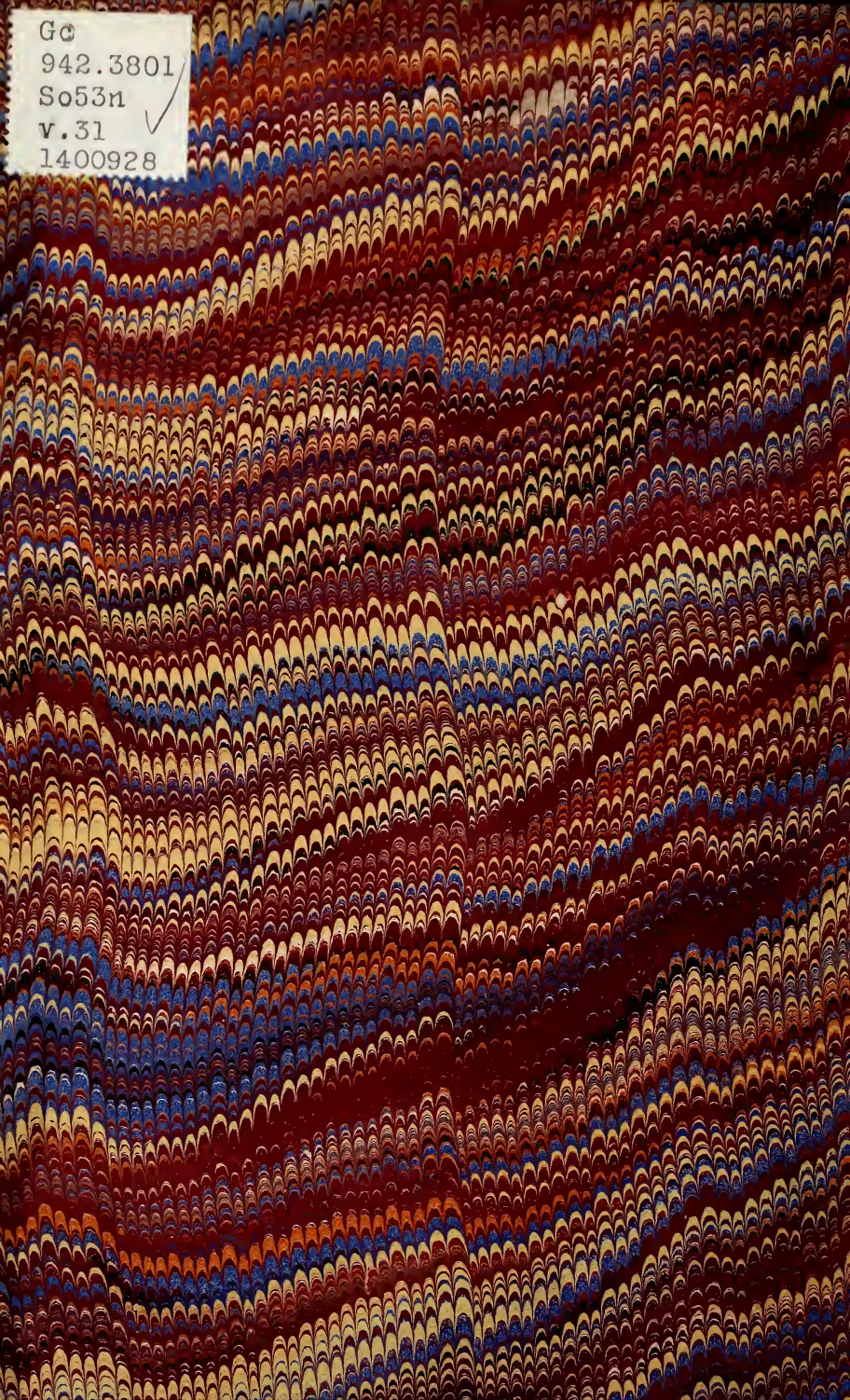


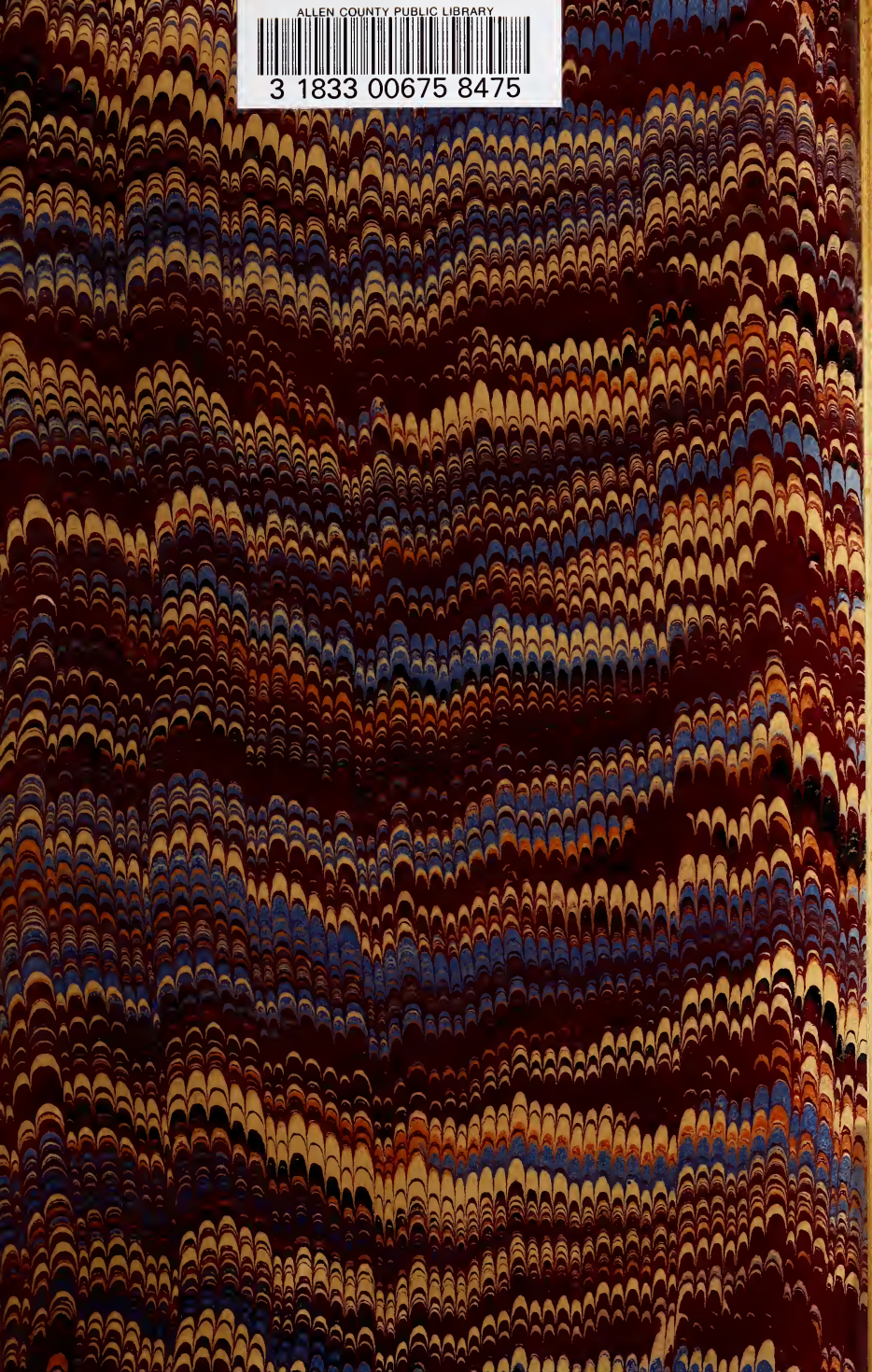
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Somersetshire
Archæological & Natural History
Society.

Proceedings during the Year 1885.

VOL. XXXI.



Woodspring Priory - Interior of Hall looking West. ∞.

SOMERSETSHIRE
 ARCHÆOLOGICAL
 AND
 NATURAL HISTORY
 SOCIETY'S
PROCEEDINGS, 1885.



VOL. XXXI.

TAUNTON:
 J. F. HAMMOND, HIGH STREET.
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Preface.

The Society must thank Mr. R. W. Paul for presentation of the plate of the ground plan of Worspring Priory; Mr. Smyth-Pigott for the coloured plate of pavement at Wemberham, and Mr. R. C. Reade for the large pavement of principal room there; and Mr. George Esdaile for the plan of Bath in illustration of his paper.

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Proceedings
of the
Somersetshire Archæological and
Natural History Society,
During the Year 1885.

THE Thirty-seventh Annual Meeting was held in the Assembly Rooms, Weston-super-Mare, on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, the 8th, 9th, and 10th September, under the Presidency of Lord Carlingford.

HIS LORDSHIP having most kindly consented to accept the office for a second term, retained the Chair, and called on the HON. SECRETARY to read the Reports:—

Annual Report.

“In presenting their 37th Annual Report, the Council of the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society have much pleasure in recording the continued prosperity of the Institution.

“As regards both the number of Members and the financial
New Series, Vol. XI, 1885, Part I.

condition of the Society, there is cause for congratulation. The number of Members amounts to 516, against 507 last year.

“The balance in hand on the general account at the end of the year was £76 10s. 11d., against £33 12s. 6d. at the close of the previous year.

“The Report of the Castle Purchase fund, in December, 1883, recorded the amount still in arrear as £409 3s. 3d. In December, 1884, this was slightly reduced, the debt amounting to £400 13s. 11d.

“It was stated in the last yearly Report that the whole cost of the restoration work in connection with the new roofing, etc., of the geological room, would probably amount to £500; but the expenditure did in fact reach £534 7s. 10d.; towards which the Committee had received, by contributions, £228 11s. 6d. Further donations since received have raised this sum to £281 8s.; leaving a deficit incurred by this particular work of £252 19s. 10d. The work is now completed, and the entire costs paid; but your Council need hardly say that any further assistance towards lessening them will be gladly accepted. The total debt on the Castle property now amounts to £653 13s. 9d.

“Some extra expenses have been incurred in rearranging the contents of the geological room, and in painting and fitting up the ethnological room; the particulars will appear in the volume of *Proceedings* to be published next year.

“The enlargement and improvement of the Society’s library continues. Your Council have to report the receipt of 283 volumes from Her Majesty’s Record Office, published by the Master of the Rolls, containing very valuable records of the middle ages. These books, with other publications, presented by Members and friends of the Society, or acquired by subscription, amounting together to over 400 volumes, have necessitated the addition and extension of shelves in the Committee room. The library which it contains is rapidly becoming one of which the Society may well be proud. Amongst the

contributions received during the year your Council would particularise the *History of the Fortescue Family*, by Lord Clermont; the *History of the House of Arundel*, by Lord Arundel of Wardour; and the valuable book on *Mediæval Military Architecture*, by Mr. G. T. Clark. Professor Boyd Dawkins and Mrs. Halliday have kindly given copies of their respective works. Your Council gratefully acknowledge also the gifts of Sir A. Trevelyan, Mr. Marshall, and others; and specially the gift of 49 volumes of the *Early English Text Society*, by the Rev. H. H. Winwood.

“Your Council have also received a valuable donation of minerals from the Trustees of the British Museum.

“Your Council further report the formation of a branch of this Society, to be called the Somerset Record Society, for discovering and publishing private records, relating both to families and events connected with the history of the county of Somerset. Your council take much interest in this effort, and propose that it should be supported by an annual subscription.

“Your Council also report, with the expression of their cordial thanks, the erection, with great taste, at the cost of one of your Vice-Presidents,—W. E. Surtees, Esq.,—of an east door to the keep of the Castle; built of Ham Hill stone, in the simple Norman style of the 12th century.

“A second application has been made to the Clergy and Churchwardens of the diocese for returns descriptive of the Church plate of their several parishes. This has been fairly responded to, but there remain still many parishes from which no response has been received.

“Your Council are sorry to report the destruction by fire of an ancient building, regarded with interest by many Members, viz., the old Fish House of Meare, of which an engraving is given in the 9th volume of the Society’s *Proceedings*.

“The volume of *Proceedings* for the last year has already been distributed among the Members.”

The Rev. W. E. BULLER moved the adoption of the Report.

Mr. F. SHUM seconded, congratulating the Society on its progress.

Col. PINNEY said that a short time ago he rebuilt the tower at the entrance of the muniment room of the Castle at Taunton. At first he thought he would repair it, but he found it necessary to rebuild it, the foundations having given way. He subsequently heard that some exclusive claim to that room, and the staircase leading to it, had been made by the Steward of the manor. As the room was in a very dilapidated condition, he wished to bring the matter before the Society.

Mr. CHISHOLM BATTEN said the subject had occupied the attention of the Council, and they were exceedingly anxious to do all they could to show their appreciation of Colonel Pinney's liberality. He thought he might say they were now engaged in making arrangements with the Lord of the Manor and the Steward which would be satisfactory to the Society. They were all very much obliged to Colonel Pinney for the work he had done, and also for having called attention to the subject.

Bishop HOBHOUSE proposed that the officers be re-elected, with the addition of Mr. E. Baker, as Local Secretary at Weston-super-Mare, and Mr. F. T. Elworthy, for Wellington.

The Rev. Prebendary SCARTH said he had been very pleased to hear such a satisfactory report, but as time had gone on he had seen how very much the working of the Society could be extended. Some time ago he pointed out that if they had secretaries and committees in all towns of importance, much information could be gathered that was at present lost. Taunton was at one extreme end, and Bath at the other extreme end of the scope of their operations. He knew that if his suggestions had been carried out a great deal of information which had been lost or gone elsewhere could have been obtained. The volume of *Proceedings* did not keep pace with the various subjects which they studied.

Mr. E. GREEN said he could not allow that their volume had deteriorated in its interest, but he thought it might be improved. He had suggested that it should be divided; Part I to be issued at Christmas, and the other in March; but the funds, it seemed, would not admit of it. By a slight enlargement Part I could be made more inclusive. He would like, the Local Secretaries acting with him, to add an appendix, containing notes on discoveries of the year, short obituary notices, and notices of books, and so help to make a little history for our successors. This would give greater general interest to the volume, and consequently increased interest in the Society.

Colonel PINNEY moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Surtees for erecting the new east door to the keep of Taunton Castle. In connexion with this matter he thought it would be detrimental to the Castle if they allowed a permissive right of way, which seemed now to be granted, to grow into a legal right, and he suggested that the door should be occasionally closed as a protection.

Bishop CLIFFORD seconded the motion, and hoped others would be found to follow the example of Mr. Surtees.

Mr. BATTEN intimated that steps had been taken to preserve the rights of the Society. There were iron gates placed across the path alluded to by Colonel Pinney, and they were locked once a week. That would preclude the possibility of the public acquiring a permanent right of way.

About thirty new Members were elected; and on the question as to the place of holding the next meeting, it was decided to refer the matter to the Council of the Society.

The President's Address.

LORD CARLINGFORD said;—Usually on these occasions it was the first duty of the annual President to introduce his successor, but that was a duty which he would pass over on the present occasion, because he had to introduce himself. At

the request of the Council he had gladly undertaken the duty, and accepted the honour of being their President for another year. Many of them, probably, knew the occasion of the difficulty in which the Council found themselves the other day—that, having elected as President Mr. Llewellyn, of Langford Court, it turned out that this gentleman was, he understood, greatly absorbed in occupations of a different kind, not of an antiquarian nature. He felt rather sorry that Mr. Llewellyn was not able to give them the benefit of his experience, because he believed that gentleman had been carrying on a close investigation of that portion of Somerset from village to village, which might have been of value to the Society. However, he believed that Mr. Llewellyn's researches related rather to the future than to the past, and that his natural history was at the present moment confined—so he was told—to an investigation of that variety of the genus *homo*, which had been lately discovered, known under the name of the agricultural voter. But he felt sure that Mr. Llewellyn would not have resigned his position as President of the Society except under the pressure of absolute necessity, and that he would be willing, and let them hope, one of these days would have the leisure, to serve the Society. Therefore, it fell to him to say a very few words on the present occasion. He felt very glad that the Society had chosen Weston as its place of meeting this year. Weston had very strong claims upon the choice of the Society. As had just been mentioned, it was thirty-four years since the Society met there, in 1851; this being quite one of the earliest places visited by them. Many things had happened since then, and among these events had been the remarkable growth of Weston from comparative insignificance into the important town and watering-place in which they were then met. He hoped that the numerous and well-to-do inhabitants and visitors of Weston might furnish a considerable number of new Members to the Society. Some, indeed, they had just elected, although he

would have been glad to hear a greater number of Weston names. In that neighbourhood, and within drives of it, they would find a considerable number of very interesting places during the three days. In his part of the world, up on Mendip, they were apt to describe this part of the country under the name of the Marshes, which, perhaps, was not quite respectful. But he knew that the neighbourhood contained many objects of interest—such, for instance, as the churches of Banwell, Kewstoke, and others, also Woodspring Priory, and the newly discovered Roman villa, besides some private houses, which they hoped to visit. Among other objects, the district especially contained that remarkable ancient camp on Worle Hill, close above them, to which that afternoon would be devoted. In the volume for the year 1851 there was an extremely interesting paper on Worlebury Camp, written by a gentleman whose loss the Society had since had to deplore—the Rev. Frank Warre. Mr. Warre described the camp with his then knowledge of it as one of the most interesting primæval antiquities he knew of—one of the most remarkable monuments of the old races which lived, fought, and died in those scenes, before the beginning of our history. But a great deal of enquiry was then still left to be made, and a great deal of investigation of the subject had recently been carried on. He was glad that a work upon Worlebury was now on the point, he hoped, of being published by subscription—a work, the result of the laborious exploration and antiquarian knowledge of two gentlemen, Messrs. Dymond and Tomkins. He hoped that one of those gentlemen would give them the benefit of his knowledge that afternoon, and no doubt the book would be very valuable. He felt glad to hear that they would be conducted over the camp by Mr. Dymond, one of the authors of the book. He believed Mr. Tomkins was absent. There was a matter briefly referred to in the Report, which, they would agree with him, was one of great interest to the Society, and to which he would

like to ask attention for a moment—a project for the establishment of a small daughter society, a branch of the Somerset Archæological Society, for the purpose of securing the editing and publication of some of the most interesting of the county records preserved in, or relating to, Somerset. This was immediately connected with that idea and hope which he thought ought always to be present to the mind of the Somerset Archæological Society, namely, the production of a real and complete county history. He mentioned it last year, and it was rather discouraging to feel that it was an object of great difficulty of attainment, requiring a vast amount of labour, and a great deal of expense, and therefore it appeared to be still a long way off. Still he contended it was an object which the Society ought to keep before it, in the hope that one of these days it might be accomplished. They had, of course, outgrown the Collinsonian epoch, and although that was a very meritorious book in its way, what they wanted to do was to keep up to the level of antiquarian knowledge, historical criticism, and the science of these days. The comparatively modest plan which he was now bringing before them, and which he desired warmly to recommend to them, was a movement entirely in that direction. He thought he could not bring it before them better than by stating in a few words what had been done in the matter. The plan was first put forward a few months ago, by a few gentlemen, whose names were so weighty in matters of that kind, that it was impossible for the Society, and for him as President for the time being, not to pay great attention to it. These names were Bishop Hobhouse, Mr. F. H. Dickinson, Mr. Green, the Rev. W. Hunt, and the Rev. Mr. Bennett of South Cadbury. In the circular which these gentlemen had sent out they said: “There has been, for many years, a general and increasing feeling, which has often found expression in the addresses of the Presidents of our Society, that there is great need of a new and complete history of the county. In order to assist in meeting

this want, we beg to submit to your consideration the following suggestions:—It is proposed to form a branch of the parent Society, to be called ‘The Somerset Record Society,’ for the purpose of seeking out, editing, and printing such records as bear upon the history of Somerset, and will aid the future historian of the county.” Then followed some details, and the circular went on to state:—“Our aim is—1. To publish one volume or more per annum. 2. In the choice of records for publication, to keep in view the work of tracing the stream of county life and the devolution of property from the earliest documentary period. 3. In the treatment of records, to present them in such form as will preserve the important parts of the original wording, but to give also such translation and annotation as will open their contents to the general reader, and thus spread an interest beyond the narrow range of experts.” This plan, which was brought before him, appeared to be one which he was bound to lay before the Council with a strong expression of approval and interest, and the Council gave it their sanction most willingly. The Council did not undertake to support it by a handsome endowment or a handsome annual subscription out of its own funds, for the good reason that it had no funds for such a purpose. He wished it had most sincerely, and that the Society were in a position to support out of its own means such an enterprise as that. He entirely sympathised with the speaker who deplored that the funds of the Society were so slender that it was not in a position to undertake any special expense of this kind. He could not say that the Society was in a position as to strength of funds worthy of so great and extensive a county as Somerset. But whether there were any means of making the Society more popular, or whether it would be wise to increase the small subscription which was now paid, was a matter on which he would not then express an opinion. He thought there was a great deal in what had been said by Prebendary Scarth and Mr. Green as to the possibility of increasing the popularity, and

therefore the strength and income, of the Society, by making the annual volume more complete, more varied, and more interesting. The success, and popularity, and attractions of the Society depended very largely upon the interest of the annual volume, and whatever could be done to make that volume more interesting, and to make a larger number of people desire to possess it on their shelves, would undoubtedly contribute, perhaps more than anything else they could do, to increase the popularity of the Society. But, as he had said, although the Society had not been able to assist this proposed Somerset Record Society out of its own funds, it could, at all events give it all the sanction and moral support in its power. It could recommend it heartily to the support of the Members of the Society as individuals, and to all who took an interest in the history of their county, whether they were Members of the Society or not. That was what he, on behalf of the Council, now desired to do. He would tell them what the result had been within the comparatively short time that the circulars had been issued. He gave it them in the words of the Rev. J. A. Bennett, who was acting as temporary Secretary of the proposed Record Society:—"Upon receiving the sanction of the President and the Council of the parent Society to our proposals, I circulated copies of your printed letter among all the officers of the Society and a limited number of other gentlemen, in order to ascertain how the proposal would be received. The results are as follow: Promises of help in money donations, upwards of £55; in subscriptions, upwards of £75; in permission to inspect and use documents, from Mr. G. Troyte Bullock, the Dean and Chapter of Wells, Mr. R. Neville Grenville, Mr. Merthyr Guest, Mrs. Harbin, Mr. H. Hobhouse, Mr. G. F. Luttrell, Colonel Paget, M.P., Mr. W. Phelps, the Registrar of the Diocese, Sir E. Strachey, Bart.; in literary help, from Mr. J. Batten, Rev. F. Brown, Mr. J. B. Davidson, Mr. B. W. Greenfield, Rev. G. Horner, Canon Jackson, Mr. O. W.

Malet, Rev. J. B. Medley, Mr. Jerome Murch. In addition, Mr. J. Batten kindly allows the Society to have the fruits of his labours upon the 'Bruton Cartulary'; Mr. E. Green has in readiness the 'Chantry Surveys of Somerset'; and I hope to be able to offer also shortly 'A Calendar of the Contents of Bishop Droghensford's Register.' These results, in view of the limited circulation of the letter, are, I venture to think, satisfactory, and justify the expectation that a wider appeal to public bodies and to individuals will enable you to enter upon the work upon a scale adequate to the historical position and resources of our county." He recommended this interesting matter to their best attention, confidently hoping that they, as a General Meeting, would confirm the action of the Council in having given their full sanction and encouragement to this public-spirited project. He strongly sympathised with what had been said by Mr. Scarth. It was evident that the Society was crippled in many ways by the scantiness of its funds. He should like to see a more adequate report of the proceedings at the Society's visits to places of interest published in their annual volume, and they would agree that the excellent geological addresses they had last year would have been a very valuable addition to the volume which had just appeared. In conclusion, his Lordship expressed the hope that the Weston meeting might prove a pleasant and profitable one to them all.

Mr. JOHN BATTEN proposed, seconded by Prebendary SCARTH, a cordial vote of thanks to Lord Carlingford for his interesting address.

This being carried with acclamation, his Lordship briefly responded.

The meeting then broke up.

By invitation of the Local Committee, at one o'clock the Members were entertained in the Masonic Hall.

Lord CARLINGFORD, after the luncheon, expressing thanks on behalf of the Society for the welcome courtesy, proposed "The Local Committee," coupled with the name of

Mr. SMYTH-PIGOTT, who, in reply, welcomed the Members to Weston-super-Mare, and expressed the hope that the gathering would be an enjoyable one. He alluded to some of the places to be visited during the meeting, and mentioned that he had recently been engaged in some excavations at Woodspring Priory, which would enable the Members to see portions which had not previously been opened.

Worlebury Camp.

About two o'clock the company, including several ladies, started—some by break and some on foot—to Worlebury Camp. Arriving on that part of the hill, by Penwartha, just above Dunmarklyn, on the South-road, they were met by

Mr. C. W. DYMOND, who acted as guide. He first pointed out in that immediate locality an escarpment of the rock at the back of one of the ditches of the camp. The ditch, although filled up, is to a great extent traceable, and the escarpment, which is supposed to have been either for the purpose of a path or a foundation, was noticeable for some yards. Near this, and slightly eastward, Mr. Dymond halted the party at one of what he said had been designated by Mr. Atkins "slingers' platforms," but to which he could attach no name. This was the most perfect one existing out of perhaps two hundred that had been constructed. It consisted of a triangular patch of small stones, sunk two or three inches into the soil. Most of the patches, he added, had been destroyed in the gardens below.

Farther eastward an entrance was made by a path within the walls of the encampment, the first object of interest being a pit, some two or three feet deep, and measuring eighteen feet by fourteen. Portions of the side of this pit were of rock, and portions were built; it being explained that the masonry here was of a character quite different from the rest of the masonry of the camp, the stones being better selected and better laid. Some suggested that this pit might have been a

storage for water. In close proximity was a triangular rock-pit, about 6 ft. 6 in. in depth, the sides being of solid rock. In it were found a skeleton, a quantity of charred wheat, and some wattling. Mr. Dymond then drew attention to the most distinct remaining specimen of stone rectangular "appendages" to the inside of the camp wall, and which had been called platforms. Of these he said there were some four or five on that side of the camp. They were about forty feet long, and oblong in shape, and from their situation are probably the foundations of guardrooms or something of that sort. The visitors then made for the west end of the camp overlooking the pier, which is now to be reached by the well known flight of wooden steps. Here the party came to a standstill at the head of the way down to a spring that used to provide water for the camp, but which has been destroyed by a landslip. Proceeding along the cliffs, eastward, the question was asked whether the camp wall was continued on that side, and the answer given that it was not, as that end of the camp was sufficiently fortified by the cliffs themselves. A little to the east of the path down to the spring a remarkable natural opening in the cliffs was pointed out, and the suggestion offered that a small number could have defended it.

Farther on, a pit was pointed out, with a subterranean passage through the cliffs, which some thirty years ago was passable, but had since become filled with *débris*. Leaving the cliffs, and plunging into the thick wood, a line of seven pits was pointed out, and also the most interesting pit in the encampment. First, for its structure, as it was like a pit within a pit; the upper one being about six feet in diameter, the bottom one, about half the diameter of the first, being lined with stones, like a well, and about two feet deep. At the bottom was bare rock, as would be noticeable in all the pits if they were cleared. Secondly, that in this small, lower part of the pit, three skeletons were found crowded, one being that of a gigantic man, nearly seven feet high, whose skull

had been cloven. Some eighteen skeletons altogether have been found in the encampment, all males, half of them bearing evident traces of wounds. The bodies had been covered with loose stones, and the most likely idea is that they were killed at the time of the siege and sack of the camp, and thrown into the pits out of the way. It was the opinion that the various pits, from quantities of charred corn and wood found in most of them, were used as storages, and that a hut existed over each of them. When clearing these pits, under a thin superficial cap of earth, loose stones lay for a depth of several feet; then the skeletons, if any; then black earth, with fragments of wood; then, a layer of broken stones; and lastly, the rock-bottom, on which charred corn was frequently found. From viewing a triple group of small pits, way was made to the principal gateway of the camp, in an inlet on the southern side, it being explained that the large heap of stones, the ruins of a portion of the wall, had been deliberately thrown into the gap to fill it up. A small pit, not a yard square, was afterwards inspected, which, it was said, successfully combatted the idea that the pits were in themselves dwelling places. The ruins of the inner and outer eastern walls of the camp were then climbed; on the former the wall facings were distinctly traceable. Further eastward of these, several outer ditches were passed, with the remark that this being the most accessible portion of the camp it was therefore the most strongly fortified.

The party then proceeded by a pathway to the road at the Kewstoke gate, by the pier, where carriages awaited to convey them to the Albert Museum, in which several objects of interest in connection with the camp are deposited. On arriving at the "Royal," some who were acquainted with the Museum, accepted an invitation of Colonel ABBOTT, of Southside, to see his collection of flint weapons and implements. These were beautifully arranged, Colonel Abbott kindly describing each in turn. The visitors were amply rewarded.

Dinner was served at the Masonic Hall, Lord Carlingford presiding.

Evening Meeting.

The Evening Meeting, at the Assembly Rooms; was well attended. The PRESIDENT announced several new Members, expressing his pleasure that Weston-super-Mare was evincing so much interest in the Society.

Dolbury Camp.

Mr. DYMOND said he had been asked to give a *vivâ voce* description of Dolbury—an interesting Camp, which he was told they were not likely to visit on this occasion. Dolbury Camp is oblong in plan, and about twenty-two acres in area. On three sides it is shut in by two banks of earth and stone, each with a ditch, now partially choked with *débris*. On the south, owing to the abruptness of the hill-side, there is only one slight untrenched bank. The inner and higher bank was faced outside, for a portion of its height, with a stone retaining-wall, many pieces of which still remain. The work is very similar to that at Worlebury; but in the latter case the substance of the rampart was of stone only, and the walls were built in several stages; whereas, at Dolbury, he believed there had never been more than one wall-face. The camp had two entrances—one at the west end, to which access was obtained by an ancient chariot-way, which might be seen climbing the hill from the bottom of the pass; the other near the north-east corner. An existing south-east entrance is of doubtful antiquity. The ruins on the crest of the inclosure are those of a warrener's house. At Dolbury there are no pits, as at Worlebury, but there are several long, low mounds, each surrounded by a shallow ditch. It had been stated, as though a fact, that British chieftains were buried there, but no one had taken the trouble to verify the conjecture by actual examination of the mounds. On the top of one of these mounds is a cruciform arrangement of very small banks of

stones, now grass-grown. Several others are distributed around the edges of the inclosure. They had been mistaken for military works, and supposed to have been intended for sentry stations, or to prevent a rush; but in reality they were seats for vermin traps—one being actually in place when he last visited the camp.

Mr. C. J. SIMMONS said he had known Dolbury Camp for fully sixty years, and with regard to the cruciform stone banks alluded to by Mr. Dymond, he knew, as a fact, that they were the work of the grandfather of the present warrener, and he could remember the camp when nothing of the kind was there. His earliest recollection of the scarp running down towards Rowberrow was that a ramp on it was pointed out to him as having been used for the purpose of supplying the camp with water—an abundant supply of which could be obtained from the Rowberrow side. Prior to the making of the new road, over Dolbury was the shorter way by two miles to the villages on the north side of Rowberrow and Shipham, and was freely used by persons walking to those places. The bridle-path through the camp, from the east to the west side, and away to Charterhouse, has likewise disappeared. Some slight earthworks on the eastern side of the camp had not been noticed in the remarks of the last speaker, but he (Mr. Simmons) was not positive that the same were not thrown up for purposes unconnected with the original encampment.

Prebendary SCARTH said the slight earth-works alluded to corresponded with the cattle inclosures on Worlebury, and were evidently places into which cattle could be driven in case of necessity. He added, in reply to a question, that Saxon coins had been found within the inclosure at Dolbury, and within such inclosure is also a small earth-work, which gave evidence that the camp within had been occupied by smaller bodies of a more early date than the Romans or Saxons.

The PRESIDENT, in alluding to the mounds which had

proved to be nothing more than vermin traps, remarked it was the duty of such a Society as theirs to expose sham antiquities, as well as to clear up facts connected with real ones.

The Roman Villa at Wemberham.

Prebendary Scarth then read a paper on "the Roman Villa recently discovered at Wemberham," situate about a mile-and-a-half from Yatton. Printed in Part II.

Colonel PINNEY said he had always been told that water once covered the whole of the district about and nearly up to the high ground at Glastonbury. He should like to ask when the embankment of the river Brue was supposed to have been begun. He, for one, fancied it was a work much more modern than Roman. No doubt the Romans did carry out considerable embankments, and he could have wished they had continued such work to Weston-super-Mare, and then that town would have a more beautiful sea than at present.

Mr. DYMOND said no doubt many embankments were constructed by the Romans, whilst others were improved by them, but he thought data would show that many on this coast are pre-Roman. Alluding to the Glastonbury district, he asked how could peat have formed there unless the tide had been excluded, so as to allow of its formation? He thought they were too apt to do an injustice to the abilities of our ancestors, who were a fine race of men, and quite as capable as the Romans of doing work like that alluded to.

Mr. E. E. BAKER said he had had the pleasure of meeting that eminent authority, Mr. Roach Smith, who said, in explanation as to why the Romans built such a villa as that at Wemberham, in a marshy country, near a river, that in all probability they had a station there, for the purpose of collecting tribute from the natives, and built these villas and out-buildings in which to store corn and metal. And what more convenient site could have been selected for the shipment of such tribute than the estuary of the river Yeo. This theory,

to his mind, gave a direct reason why this villa had been built in a place so wild.

Rev. COWDEN COLE (Upton) said England had been held by the Romans for the benefit of the natives. The large number of coins found showed the large trade carried on in this country, and he thought such coins may have been hidden by the Romans themselves for safety, because their hold of the country was uncertain. The whole evidence of the Roman occupation shows a continual state of insurrection.

Mr. SMYTH-PIGOTT said, in the early part of 1884 he spent the days of two months in excavating the villa at Wemberham, but there is one extraordinary problem which has not yet been solved. There are two walls, of three feet in thickness, running from the villa under the bank of the Yeo, which do not appear in the river itself. The full extent and purpose of such walls remain to be explained. With regard to the sarcophagus found in 1825, south of the villa, he should like to ask whether those who dwelt in such villas were usually buried so close to the residence they had occupied during life. Coins of the reign of the Edwards were found among the ruins of the villa—which indicated that researches had been made there at a much earlier period; and in other parts of the field a great deal of pottery and charcoal had been found. There could be little doubt that further excavations will reveal other objects of interest. He added that some two miles distant from the site of the villa, in the parish of Kingston Seymour, upwards of 800 coins were found in November, bearing date of the second and third centuries.

Bishop CLIFFORD did not think the neighbourhood of Glastonbury was drained until the time of James I. He thought the old road in that locality was not so much attributable to drainage as to the fact that in the meres or sea lakes there were natural ridges of rock, which at certain states of the tide were used by pedestrians for the purpose of passing from one point to another. With regard to the villa that had

been discovered in such a singular position, its size must not be exaggerated when they considered the requirements of a well-to-do farmer for his cattle and his servants. And, further, they must not lose sight of the fact that the villa is in close proximity to what was once a rich mining district, and in just such a place as a man who had made his fortune at the mines would choose for settling down. It is certain that whilst the Romans had to defend themselves from attacks from without, they had no internal ruptures to contend with, the whole of the Roman Empire, in itself, being peaceful. He could not approve of all they did, but it may be supposed their veterans in war were rewarded with land in the countries they took, and nothing was more natural than to find such relics of civilisation as had recently been discovered.

The PRESIDENT observed that the discovery of such a villa on the marshy banks of the Yeo was a curious fact, and one that carried the consolidation of the district, and its conversion into solid and inhabitable land to a much more early period than he had thought. With regard to the far more extensive marshes to which Colonel Pinney had alluded, he could not think it possible that the embankments in that case were of so early a date as those in the Yeo district, as, according to the traditions, Glastonbury was an island, and they knew, from the Saxon names of places, that the sea must have made its way for a considerable distance inland. He tendered the best thanks of the meeting to Prebendary Scarth for his valuable paper, which had given rise to a most interesting discussion concerning that wonderful people who conquered not us, but the island in which we live.

Bishop CLIFFORD said, between the time of the Roman departure and Saxon occupation nearly 200 years elapsed, so that the British were not so easily overcome as the Saxon records would have them to believe.

Prebendary SCARTH, in reply, said it had been a common custom to bury the dead in gardens, and a similar interment to

that at Wemberham had been found at Castle Combe. About two feet six inches was the average depth of burial, but he did not know of instances of sepulchral monuments. In reply to the question asked by Colonel Pinney, he did not think it followed that because the Romans did some embankments that they did the whole. It was impossible for them to have done all the work they must have deemed advisable. He was one who believed the Romans did more for this country than had ever been acknowledged. Their system of colonization, also, was very perfect, for whilst they brought Spaniards and Gauls to Britain, they took some of the British away to form other colonies, and therefore the Roman conquest was not an unmitigated evil.

Prebendary SCARTH, in reply to a question, said circular coins, which must have been in circulation some 300 years later than the date they bear, were often found on Mendip. Every Emperor on coming into power issued fresh coinage, and it would depend on the requirements of the country at the time as to the amount of coin brought here, not merely for the payment of troops, but for commercial speculations, besides which no doubt the Roman merchants who accompanied the army brought coin with them for the purposes of usury.

Bishop HOBHOUSE suggested that the people may have pierced the sea walls in times of attack, and hence a reclaimed district may have become re-flooded. The name of Pylle, whilst implying a landing place, was also applied to a mere rivulet, and the word was often found in districts where the sea could never have been.

Mr. SIMMONS instanced that in the Lympsham marsh there was paid what was called an admiral's rent, which he understood had been paid, in days gone by, in respect of lands recovered from the sea.

Professor EARLE, in reply to a question by the President, said the word "Pill," or "Pylle," was remarkable, and one on which it was difficult to base any argument. He had always

supposed "Pill" to be a British word, ordinarily identical with the English word "pool"—a stream running into salt water, but subject to flooding from the sea. With regard to the hiding of money, people in the early days had exactly the same desire as those of the present time, to lay by something for a rainy day. But in the remote ages people could not lay it all out at once or invest it to advantage, so there being no deposit notes in those days, they placed the same for safety in the earth. Or, the coins may have been so secreted by people who, with some of the present day, like to hoard up little treasures unknown to their neighbours, or even to the members of their own family. He added to these suggestions the fact that during the time of the Roman occupation sudden orders were often given to move from one place to another, and people not being able to carry their treasures with them, deposited the same in a well-marked place, hoping to return at some future day to recover it. It was wonderful the large number of coins that had been found so hoarded. One gentleman had recovered between 29,000 and 30,000, so that the find near Wemberham was as nothing. In the *Saxon Chronicle* there is a passage, where the departure of the legion from Britain is commemorated in the following words: "This year the Romans departed from Britain, and they buried their money hoards." This, then, showed that the people of that early date were as familiar as we are with the unearthing of hoards, and from that time to the present such unearthing has continued. These facts would enable them, to some extent, to measure the wealth of the Romans.

Somerset Epitaphs.

Dr. HARDMAN followed with a paper on "Somerset Epitaphs," which will be found printed in Part II.

Wednesday: Excursion.

By the ten o'clock train a party of about seventy left Weston

for Yatton station, where carriages awaited to convey them to the site of the newly discovered

Roman Villa at Wemberham,

about a mile distant. By the thoughtful care of Mr. Smyth-Pigott, the remains were found enclosed by hoarding, and the pavements carefully protected by sheds or roofs of corrugated iron.

Mr. SMYTH-PIGOTT gave some particulars as to the discovery of the remains, remarking that in March, 1884, they were found in the course of draining the field. The drain pipes were being laid at a depth of 2 feet 6 inches from the surface, and in the course of this work the men cut into a piece of tessellated pavement. Upon this discovery excavations were commenced. They followed the lines of the walls, one of which penetrated into the bank of the Yeo, which would seem to indicate that the course of the river had been diverted. Two coins were found in one of the rooms, but they were both defaced, and it was difficult to say whose they were, but they were assumed to be of the reign of Tetricus. Pieces of tessellated pavement were found throughout the parts excavated. He added that in the following November, about two miles from the villa, upwards of 800 coins of the second and third centuries were unearthed.

Prebendary SCARTH directed attention to the fact that one of the floors of the villa had evidently been treated in the same way as that at Silchester. There was a large central block of masonry at the back, and flues branched out from this, and were carried underneath the floors. In proof of this it was pointed out that portions of flue pipes had been found all over the parts excavated. The herring-bone masonry to be seen in the walling was a characteristic of Roman works. This kind of masonry was, however, to be found in Norman castles, of which there was an instance at Ludlow, likewise in some of their old churches; so that he supposed the mediæval

masons received their instruction in this kind of work from the Romans.

LORD CARLINGFORD, on behalf of the Society, thanked Mr. Pigott for the enlightened care with which he had unearthed and was now protecting this most interesting Roman villa, and wished that all owners of such relics of antiquity would act in the same spirit.

A full description of the remains will be found in Mr. Scarth's paper, in Part II.

A pleasant drive through Yatton, by Congresbury, and Dolbury Camp, brought the party to

Churchill.

Dolbury could not be explored, for want of time, but Mr. Somers had kindly invited the Society to visit it, adding an offer of extended courtesy.

Following the time by the clock, the Members, as a first duty, at once proceeded to the charming new Wesleyan School-room, recently built by Mr. Sidney Hill, and kindly lent for the luncheon.

LORD CARLINGFORD—the repast being finished—moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Hill for his kindness in placing so handsome an apartment at their disposal, coupling with him the Rev. S. P. Jose, who had so much aided the local arrangements.

Rev. S. P. JOSE acknowledged the compliment on behalf of himself and Mr. Hill, whose absence he regretted. The Churchill people, he added, would like to be enlightened as to the probable date of the effigies in the church porch, and as to whom they were supposed to represent.

Mr. SMYTH-PIGOTT, expressing a regret, which would be shared by all, that Lord Carlingford was obliged to leave them, proposed his Lordship's health, thanking him for the great interest he had taken in the meeting.

LORD CARLINGFORD, in reply, acknowledged the kindness

he had received as President, and expressed regret that a previous engagement prevented him from joining the Society on the morrow.

The Members then proceeded through the meadow, by the Camp, to

Churchill Church.

MR. B. EDMUND FERREY, F.S.A., said that the tower at the west end of the church was a specimen of the plain and simple Somerset type. Neither in size nor in any other respect was it remarkable. Instead of being faced with ashlar like the richer examples of towers, it was constructed of a rough, warm-coloured local stone. There had been a west door, but this had not long since been filled in, as a window. The open timber roof, with curved braces to each rafter, and with short wood shafts at intervals, resting on corbel heads, much resembled the nave roof to Priddy church, on the Mendips, near Wells. It was an excellent example of Perpendicular work. But the roof of the north aisle was the *chef d'œuvre* of the building, the treatment of its panels being, as far as he knew, unique. For, instead of having only the usual arrangement of square or oblong panels, separated by moulded ribs, there were in this beautiful ceiling narrow panels, at intervals, the whole width of the aisle, filled in with the most delicate and diversified ornamental cusping, the design being different in each bay. This roof, like the rest of the body of the church, had been conservatively restored, about five or six years since, by Mr. Christian, architect to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. The south aisle open roof was quite of a different description; a very poor modern one, the easternmost bay of which was panelled. Though this also was modern work, he thought it very likely that the original mediæval roof had been panelled, as this end of the aisle had evidently been a chapel, as shown by the piscina still existing in it. In nave roofs, one often sees the easternmost bay more

elaborately decorated over the rood, and so, in like manner, possibly the roof over that part of an aisle, when there had been an altar. The arcades on the north and south sides of the nave were markedly different in date and design. The latter was the earlier, being of the period transitional between Decorated and Perpendicular; *i.e.*, the end of the 14th century. The north arcade was fully developed late 15th century Perpendicular. Behind the handsome pulpit, recently executed, was a curious quatrefoil pierced panel, opening out into a squint, between the east end of the north aisle of the chancel. This squint was rather unusual in form, as it reached to the floor. It had evidently always been designed so. The old shaped poppy-head bench ends to the nave were almost precisely like those to Banwell church, which was not to be wondered at, considering their close connection. The chancel was poor and small, as compared with the nave. Its side walls had been raised, and the pitch of the roof lowered, some thirty years since. During the *recent* restoration, a new east window, of good Perpendicular character, had been inserted.

Mr. C. J. SIMMONS next called attention to the monument on the north side of the chancel, date 1644, erected to the memory of John Latch and his wife. Mr. Simmons, a descendant of the seventh generation, has recently restored and recoloured it. With other notes on the Latch family, he gave the tradition that this John Latch, being engaged in the Civil War, on his return home found his wife dead, and whilst looking at the corpse, himself expired. The monument represents him clad in scarlet uniform and buff-coloured boots, lying beside the corpse, with an expression of horror on his countenance on beholding the face of his wife, from which he has just removed a portion of the winding-sheet. Mr. Simmons also drew attention to, and commented on, the children represented on the monument.

Rev. S. JOSE conducted the Members to the Jenyns brass, date 1572, on the floor of the south aisle, giving some details.

This brass was found protected by a carpet, or probably it would have been by now entirely defaced.

Stopping next in the porch, Mr. GREEN made some remarks on the two effigies now deposited there. The costume of the lady was of the thirteenth century, and he judged that of the knight, by the fashion of the armour, to be about 1280. His death might have been later, as such effigies were made during life. As the early history of Churchill Manor was rather obscure, he would not venture to give these effigies a name.

Some suggestions were made, chiefly drawing attention to already published notices.

Passing the tomb of Dr. Giles, lying just without the churchyard, in unconsecrated ground, the party walked round to

Churchill Court.

Here the Members were courteously received by Mr. POLLOCK, in the absence of Mr. Dundas Cloete, and conducted to the lawn.

The HON. SECRETARY gave some details of the plan of the old house, as imparted to him by Mr. Cloete, pointing out where foundations, under or on the borders of the lawn, had been met with.

Mr. JOHN BATTEN, noticing the connection of Sir John Churchill with Churchill, expressed his opinion that the story of the Churchill family having taken the name from the parish of Churchill was all a myth. No doubt Sir John Churchill, the purchaser of property in the parish, was of the family of the Churchills the progenitors of the Duke of Marlborough; but these were directly of Wotton Glanville, in Dorset.

Lord CARLINGFORD suggested that Sir John Churchill may have purchased the property for the sake of the name.

Mr. C. J. SIMMONS then read a paper, being "Notes on the Manor of Churchill," which will be found printed in Part II.

A general discussion followed, when Mr. GEORGE men-

tioned that Sir John Churchill was Recorder of Bristol in 1682, and its representative in Parliament in 1685. In the churchwardens' books of St. Peter's, Bristol, is an entry under date 1685,—“Paid to the ringers when Sir John Churchill was made Master of the Rowles, order of Mr. Major, 6s.”

The party then inspected the house or ascended the tower, and partook of the refreshment kindly provided in the hall.

After thanking Mr. Pollock for his courtesy, carriages were sought for the drive through Sandford—where the President left—and through Banwell, to

Hutton Church.

Mr. FERREY said this church had been much modernised, as, in 1849, the chancel was rebuilt and an organ-chamber and vestry added to the north of it. At the same time a south aisle was added, the fine south porch destroyed, and no entrance left on that side of the church. As there is no north door, the body of the building has thus no side entrance—a fact of unusual occurrence. The only mediæval objects preserved were the brasses to the Payn family in the chancel. The beautiful ancient pulpit on the north side of the nave, constructed partly in the thickness of the wall, was a very good specimen of the earlier part of the Perpendicular period. All its ornamentation was of refined and delicate character, and exceedingly well designed. Instead of being corbelled out from the wall, a considerable part of the pulpit rested on an elegant panelled shaft, attached to the wall. Examples of mediæval pulpits are scarce, and so the Hutton pulpit ought to be much appreciated. There was a good octagonal, Perpendicular font; to all appearance the old one cleaned and repaired. At the west end of the south aisle was an interesting Jacobean monumental tablet, dated 1626. The groined stone ceiling to the ground storey of the west tower was of singular beauty. The ribs were of bold projection, with several short “lierne” ribs, with exquisitely carved bosses. The character

of the work was superior to the kind of fan-tracery vaulting so often found in the late Perpendicular churches of Somerset. Commenting on the exterior of the tower, Mr. Ferrey praised the design of the stair-turret, crowned with its beautiful spirelet.

Mr. BISDEE remarked that the porch was removed during his absence from England, or he would have tried to prevent it. He also called attention to the ivy tree, the branches from which encircle the tower to its full height. The stem of the tree is the largest in the West of England, and is fully three feet in girth.

Proceeding now to the lawn of

The Court,

Mr. GREEN described the house as a most interesting example of domestic architecture. The part from the tower eastward was of the fifteenth century; as the windows had been tampered with, it was difficult to give the date very exactly, but he would suggest about or soon after 1450. There would be, he thought, a window in the minstrels' room, now hidden by the conservatory. Should this one be found unaltered, it would be a guide for the others. The hall was still perfect, and used as a dining room, and a very charming place it was. It was supposed, because there was a tower, that this was a fortified house; but that was a mistake, and it was equally erroneous to suppose that it had ever been connected with any monastic establishment. It was simply a very perfect example of a manor house of its period. The portion west of the tower was Jacobean. In one of the bedrooms was a mantle-piece, very late Elizabethan in character, but really Jacobean. The date of this house—for it was distinct and perfect in itself, although most cleverly added—would be the early part of the reign of James I.

By the kind permission of Mr. Bisdee the interior was now inspected—a ewery at the entrance being pointed out as a charming relic of the olden times, when fingers were used at

meals instead of forks. The party was subsequently most hospitably entertained in the hall, which was much admired for its symmetrical proportions.

Gathering next just without the front entrance,

Mr. JOHN BATTEN, in a few well chosen words, thanked Mr. Bisdee for his kindness and hospitality, expressing the general opinion how fortunate it was that this little gem was owned by one who so carefully preserved and guarded it.

Mr. BISDEE briefly acknowledged the compliment, and expressed the pleasure the Society's visit had given him.

A pleasant drive by Oldmixon and Uphill brought the party home by six o'clock.

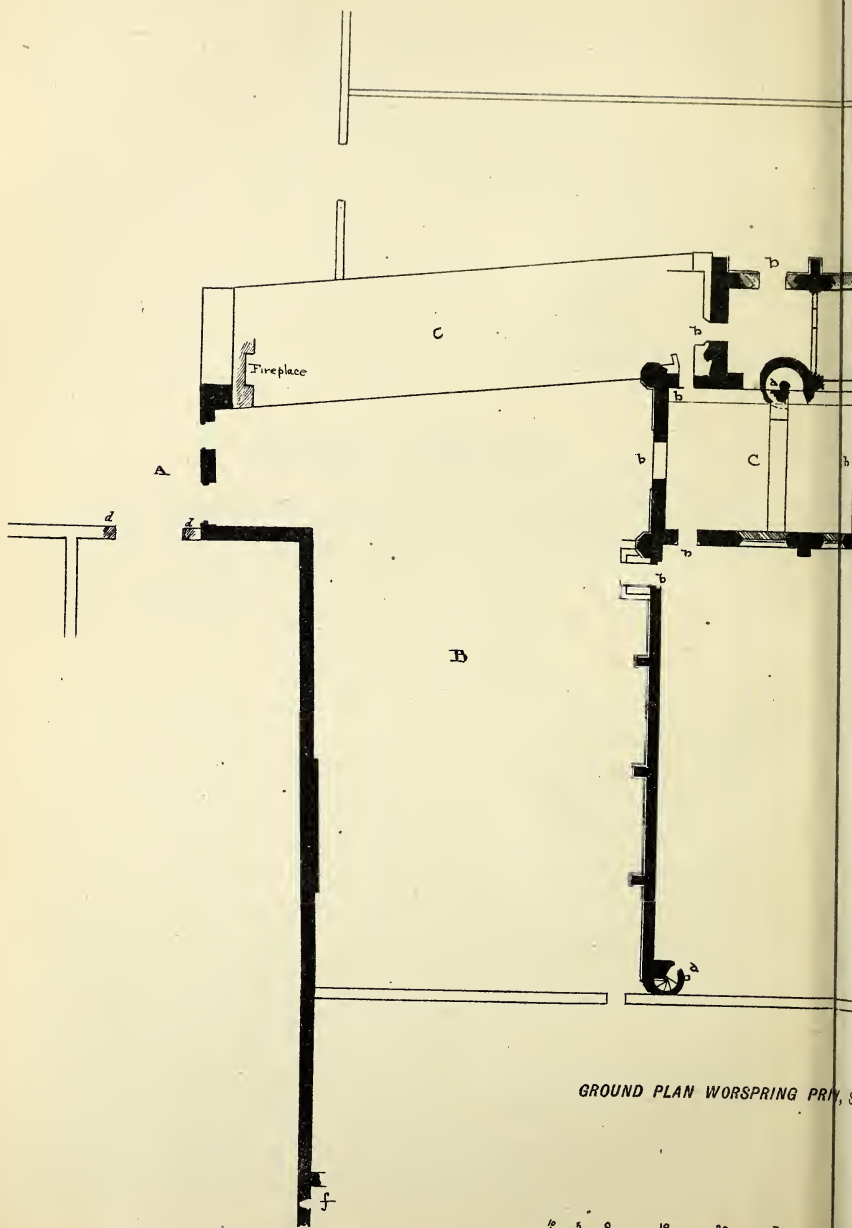
Evening Meeting.

The attendance was more numerous than on the preceding evening. Bishop CLIFFORD presided, and briefly opened the proceedings, after which

Mr. R. W. PAUL gave a description of

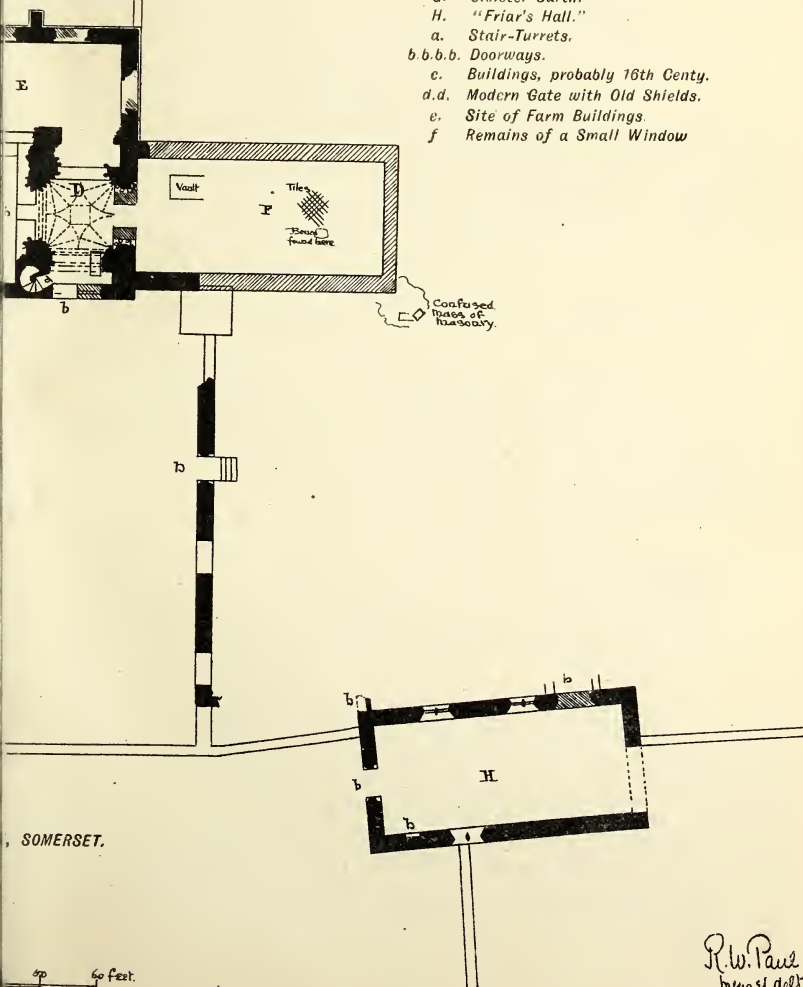
Woodspring Priory.

Of the early church there are but few remains visible. The remains now existing are of distinct dates. The cloister walls, the whole of the outer enclosure, and perhaps a portion of the lower part of the tower belonged to the 14th century. The building known as the "hall," and the upper part of the tower, are of the early part of the 15th century; and the nave, north aisle, and the barn, are of the latter part of the 15th or beginning of the 16th century. By excavations commenced in Sept., and continued to the previous Saturday, the foundations of the walls of the choir had been laid bare. Where the high altar had stood, was found a quantity of 14th century pavement, and amongst the armorial tiles were the arms of England, France, the Isle of Man (with roses between each leg), lion rampant, a portion of the arms of Clare, and fragments. Ten feet from the east wall was found a large hole, containing



GROUND PLAN WORSRING PRIORY

- A Entrance-gate.
- B. Outer Enclosure
- C. Nave.
- D. Tower.
- E. North Aisle.
- F. Site of Choir. (Excavated, Sept. 1885.)
- G. Cloister Garth.
- H. "Friar's Hall."
- a. Stair-Turrets.
- b b b b. Doorways.
- c. Buildings, probably 16th Centy.
- d.d. Modern Gate with Old Shields.
- e. Site of Farm Buildings.
- f Remains of a Small Window



R. W. Paul
mens et del. 1885.

human remains, including skulls; and four feet beneath the surface, near the tower, were found slabs, which appeared to have formed the end of a vault. Leaden coffins had been found. Large pieces of tracery and filials, evidently portions of the choir windows, were also unearthed; also glazed tiles and some large white squares, either of very fine freestone or marble. From the position of these relics it would appear that the pavement of the west end was more plain than at the east, where the more elaborate remains were found. The total length of the chancel was 43 ft. 5 in., and the width 19 ft. 10 in.; the side walls being 3 ft. in thickness.

The HON. SECRETARY thanked Mr. Paul for his paper, and for the great trouble he had taken in respect of the excavations. He added, that the Priory was originally founded at Dodelyn, and subsequently removed to Worspring. He asked where Dodelyn might be.

A Member suggested Doultong, as some foundation was made there in early times.

Bishop CLIFFORD remarked there was an interesting description of Woodspring in *The Antiquary*, of August, 1881, from which it appeared that the tower of the 13th century—which had been of an oblong form—had been cased in the 16th century and made square. The old tower was only about two-thirds the height of the present one.

Mr. BATTEN said there was evidence to show a family connection between the founder and three of the assassins of Thomas á Becket, which might be a good reason for his founding the Priory.

Roman Bath v. Roman Chester, etc.

Mr. GEORGE ESDAILE then contributed a well-considered argument, in which he wished to show that Roman Bath was originally similar to the camps at Chester, London, Lincoln, and Manchester. The reading was well illustrated by plans or outlines of the Roman camps above named, thereby adding

greatly to its general interest. Slightly epitomised, the paper is printed in Part II.

In the course of a brief discussion,

Mr. SCARTH observed that the origin of our cities out of Roman stations was a subject of much interest, and not confined to Britain alone, as many continental cities have arisen in like manner. With respect to Bath, he could not agree with Mr. Esdaile as to the original line of the Roman walls. The course of the river had not altered much since the Roman period, and this was proved by finding Roman interments on both banks, not far distant from its present course. It had, indeed, in former times occasionally flooded the land where Pulteney Street now stands, but interments of Roman times were found behind Daniel Street, in the Sydney Gardens, and the Villa Fields; and a Roman road appears to have run on each side of the river. The form of Roman camps was not always quadrangular, as Vegetius, in his treatise on Roman military matters (*Flav. Vegeti de Re Militari*, Lib. I., cap. xxiii.), clearly tells us, but often suited to the form of the ground, and this seems rather to have been the case with Bath, where the site of the Roman fortified town had been regulated by the bend of the river. He had listened with much pleasure to the address, to which the large plans exhibited of the original forms of many fortified cities in Britain, as traced out by portions of the Roman walls, had given a special interest.

The PRESIDENT having thanked Mr. Esdaile for his contribution, and the evident trouble he had taken with it, the meeting broke up.

Thursday: Excursion.

The morning was all that could be desired, and at the appointed time, 9.30, upwards of seventy departed in breaks and other conveyances, for

Worspring Priory.

Passing through Worle and Kewstoke, the party arrived at

Worspring at 11 o'clock. Having alighted in the outer enclosure, a halt was made at the entrance gate, where

Mr. ALLEN BARTLETT said that the first foundation of the Priory was in all probability in the year 1210. According to a letter written to the Bishop of Bath and Wells at that time, there appeared to have been a chapel or chantry on the site, and in this was buried Robert, grandfather of De Courtenay ; but no trace of it has been found, save and except a Norman capital, which was dug up some time since at a distance of some three hundred yards from the present building. This is now in the wall at the entrance gate. From a description given by an old farmer, however, in 1835 there would appear to have been some slight resemblance to a small nave and chancel, at a spot known as the Five Elms, where, underneath some stone slabs, a quantity of bones was discovered. This is all that is known of the original building. The shields which now ornament the entrance gate were supposed by Rutter to have been brought from the east end of the north aisle of the church, but country people informed him that both shields were brought from fields in the same line as that in which the capital had been discovered, and this was in a direct line to a landing place on the coast. From this it might be assumed, that in carrying away the carvings, some were accidentally left behind. The second church was of the 13th or 14th century. Mr. Bartlett then proceeded to direct attention to the exterior of the present building, pointing out that the west front had undergone great alteration — in fact, had been almost entirely destroyed. Above the west door there must have been a large window, in all probability surmounted by a crowned figure seated. On either side had also been figures under canopies, but they had become almost invisible. From what could be made of the outline, however, there was good reason to suppose that one figure represented St. Augustine, whilst the second was, perhaps, either the founder, or Thomas á Becket.

Mr. Bartlett then conducted the party to the southward and to the hall, which he fully described.

Mr. PAULL gave general particulars as to the result of the excavations—as embodied in his paper of the previous evening. It was believed that after the suppression the buildings were used as a hospital.

Mr. BARTLETT said there were frequent entries in the books of adjacent parishes of contributions made towards a hospital, which existed between 1601 and 1710, but there was no documentary evidence to identify Woodspring as the institution. He added that in the recent excavations they found burnt stone and wood, which gave rise to the suggestion that the choir had been destroyed by fire.

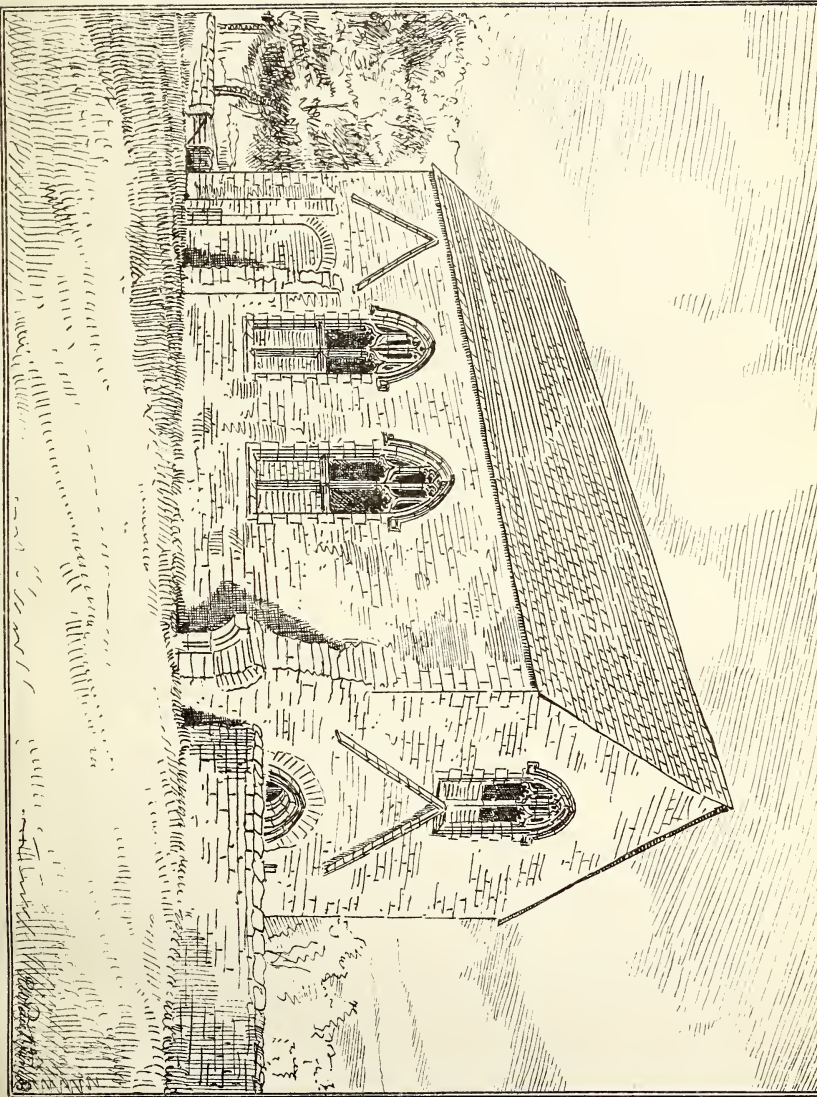
Mr. BATTEN remarked that in parish books references to a hospital were often found; this would be for village or parish purposes, and must not be supposed to mean a general hospital, in our sense of the word. It should be remembered, too, that a hospice was not a hospital.

Dr. HARDMAN read the following curious letter, showing the style in which favours were asked in the olden times:—

Letter asking for a grant of Woodspring Priory, addressed to Cromwell, the Royal Commissioner, by Humphrey Stafford.

“RIGHT Worshipful, yn my most humblyst wise I can, I commend me unto your good mastership, thanking your mastership ever for the great kyndenes and ffavour shewed unto me always, and when it may please your mastership to call to your good remembrances that ye promysed me to be good master unto me when the tyme came: Sir your mastership shall understand that whereas yet I am not able to doo suche acceptable service unto the kynges highnes my master, as my poore and true hert could, and if I hadd wherewith to mayntayn it, so it is, pleasith it your mastership to understand, that when I desyred Mr. Bryan to be so good

Woodspring Priory, Somerset - The "Hall" from N.W.





master unto me as to moshion unto your mastership to help me unto the gift of the priorie of Fynshed, a house of Chanons yn the countee of Northampton, of ye yearly value of lvj^{li} x^s xj^d ob. yn case it be subpressed, sir your mastership shall understond that sens [*since*] that tyme my naturall ffather willed me to write to your mastership, and to non others, for to be good master unto me for a house of Chanons, yn Somerset shiere called Worspyng, where my said ffather is ffounder therof and as I do suppose of like value or therabouts. And if it wold please your mastership to be so good master unto as to helpe me to Worspyng priorie, I were and wilbe wylst I leve your bedman [*i.e.*, offering prayers for you], and always redy to your mastership suche poore service and pleasure as shal become me to doo, whillest I do leve, God wylyng, who ever have your mastership yn his tuysshon [*tuition*]. From Bletherwexe, thus present Palme Sunday, by your own assured to his litle power.

“HUMFFRUY STAFFORD,

“Esquyre.

“To the right honorable

1400928

“Sir Thomas Cromwell,

“Knyght, Secreterie.

“To the Kynges hyghnes d. d. thus.”

Mr. GREEN said the income of the Priory had been about £98 clear, equivalent to about £2,000 per annum of the present currency.

The interiors of the building, including the prior's hall, refectory, and tithe barn, were minutely inspected, nearly two hours being occupied.

The Hon. Secretary had prepared a short account of the Priory, but, as time did not permit a longer delay, the reading was omitted. This could the more easily be done, as a full history is intended from a local source. The following few notes only are added.

The original grant of William Courtenay is set out in a

patent of 1325 (18th Edward II, part 2, membrane 33), which, confirming all former gifts, states that the Priory was originally founded by Geoffrey Gilbelyn in Dodelyng. Besides the Courteney gifts, the Priory benefited largely from the Cantilupes. Gifts from several others are also found. Touching the principal ones, in 1226 (*Close Rolls*, 10th Henry III, m. 2), William de Cantilupe, jun., gave fifty shillings rent and lands, with belongings, in Wurle; and if the lands did not produce that amount, his father, William, sen., agreed to make it up—some principal, discreet men of the county to determine the value. In 1310, John de Cugayn allowed the prior a rent of twenty shillings. (*Pat. Rolls*, 4th Edward II, pt. 1, m. 26). In 1331, by patent (5th Edward III, pt. 2, m. 30), Henry Cary, vicar of Locking, gave some Montfort property, a messuage and 58 acres of land, seven pence rent, and a rent of twelve horse shoes (*clavorum equorum*) in Samford-juxta-Churchill. In 1410 (*Pat. Rolls*, 11th Henry IV, pt. 2, m. 21), there was another case, in which Robert Pobelowe, clerk, and John Venables, gave 174 acres of land in Worle, Wynscombe, Rolleston, and Pokerolleston, and seven acres in Worspring, the land of Robert More, the same passing after his death to said Robert and John: and also two acres in Worle, the land of Agnes Andrew—also destined to pass, after her death, to the same Robert and John, and so to the Priory. This looks like our “Charitable Trust,” by which so much has been gathered. In the Chapter documents at Wells is a covenant of the prior of Worspring, dated 1266, to pray for his benefactors. Besides such business events, there is but little to record of this or any similar place. Occasional legal squabbles alone vary the routine. In 1419, here, the prior was summoned, or complained against, for causing obstruction by placing bars on the wall called Wowall, the said wall being a common way (*Assize Rolls*, 7th Henry V).

One curious episode occurs, but relating more especially to the neighbourhood rather than to the Priory. In 1399, in an

inquisition on the goods of Richard, formerly King, and his adherents, forfeited in Somerset (1st and 2nd Henry IV, *Excheq. Q.R., Miscell.*), it was found that a ship belonging to the Duke of Surrey arrived at Rokysmille, full of goods, viz., vessels of silver, gold, and gilt, packed in salmon casks. There were also other jewels and cloths for the hall and the body, and utensils for the house. These the Abbot of Glastonbury seized, and with carts took them to Glastonbury, and from thence to Queen Camel, the whole being valued at £1000. It was also found that Purnella, daughter of Amicia Nelder, wife of John Nelder of Worle; Alice Yndener, wife of William Yndener of Worle; Alice, daughter of William Plymton of Banwell, and John Underwode of Worle, had "one little clothsak which they found south of the Elynes of Worspring, full of cloths and vestments, with a mitre and other goods and jewels, valued at £60."

The next notice foreshadows the end. A letter of early in 1534 (*S.P. Dom.*, Henry VIII, v. 6, 126), records that the writer was "enformyd by one of my lordes tenautes there that the Prior of Wulspring shalbe deposed shortly." Following this, on the 21st August, 1534, the prior and his house surrendered, and signed their acknowledgment that the Bishop of Rome was usurper, and that the King Henry was alone supreme head of the Church of England. The document is a neat and perfect one, the seal alone being somewhat broken. (*Augmentation Office*, No. 123). Mistakes have been made on this document: it is only an acknowledgment of supremacy, the Priory was not therefore dissolved, this came later. The date has not yet been stated.

The dissolution was under the Act of Parliament of 27th Henry VIII, cap. 28 (4th February, 1536), by which every religious house whose income was less than £200 per annum was given to the Crown. "Forasmoche as manifest synne, vicious, carnall and abomynable lyvyng, is dayly usyd and comytted amonges the lytell Abbeys and Pryoryes, whereby

they spoyle, destroy, consume, and utterly waste all their goods, and albe it that many visytacons hath been had for two hundreth yeres and more, yet with lytell or none amendment: for the extirpyng and destruccion of such vyce and synne"—be it enacted, etc. Accordingly, Worspring fell under this Act. With the smaller establishments there was not generally a formal document given at the time of their dissolution, and consequently the date when Worspring collapsed must be found by other means.

The King's ministers or agents who took possession necessarily had to send in their account of rentals received, the amounts being granted in augmentation of the Crown revenue. The first for Worspring (*Ministers' Accounts*, 27th Hen. VIII, No. 103), states that the property was in the hands of the Crown, annexed "in augmentation of revenue by Act of Parliament, 4th February, 27th Henry VIII, in earth, of the Church of England supreme head." It is for a half-year, six weeks and six days. From this document it is learned that although the estate was taken in hand in May, all matters went on as usual until 27th September, when the Priory was suppressed.

The property belonging is duly set out, but here epitomised: Worle produced £39 9s. 4d.; there being deducted as paid to Roger Normynton, formerly prior, expended by him £9 8s. 7½d.; and outgoings of his office, "before 27th Sept., when he was dissolved," £9 10s. 2½d. To Thos. Arundell, Knt., expenses of his office as collector for one year, £10 3s. 5d. Locking was put at £24 18s. 11d.; out of which £16 9s. 9d. were allowed to the prior, as already expended, and to Sir Thos. Arundell £6 9s. 5½d. Sanford Marsh produced £6 6s. 6d.; Butcombe, £2; Worspring Manor, and lands in Worle and Kewstoke, £12 19s. 6d.; the tithe of Worle, £8, and of Kewstoke, £4 13s. 4d.

A document undated, but of soon after the above date, is of interest, as showing the then rental value of the lands.

(Chapter House, County Bags, Miscell., No. 15.) It is headed —“The rent of the hole demaynes there, late beyng in the Pryor’s handes in parcels, and nowe letten and demysed for xxi yeres at the rent ensuing.

	£	s.	d.
“Firste, cxx acres pasture, at viii ^d the acre ...	4	0	0”
“Over cxxviiij acres, arable, at iv ^d the acre ...	2	2	8”
“Over xxx acres of wode and waste, at j ^d the acre	2	6”
“Over xxx acres of mede, at xij ^d the acre ...	1	10	0”
“Over xiiij acres, mede, called Elman, lying within the parishe of Worle, at xvj ^d the acre	18	8	”
“Over xiiij acres, mede, called Worle mede, lying in Worle aforesaid, at xij ^d the acre ...	13	0	”
	<hr/> £ 12 16 10” <hr/>		

A thoroughly enjoyable drive through Worle and Wolvershill brought the company to

Banwell,

where they at once alighted and partook of an excellent luncheon at the Ship Hotel. Mr. R. H. PAGET, M.P., presided.

At the conclusion of the repast the HON. SECRETARY announced that they would deviate somewhat from the original programme, and omit the bone cavern from their day’s exploration. This announcement at first caused some little disappointment, but subsequently, with the weather setting in very wet and boisterous, it was admitted that the omission had been well timed.

Banwell Church.

Mr. FERREY, standing outside the church, at the west end, commented on the leading features of the exterior. He said that the noble tower was of great size and height, but in other respects had no features distinct from other towers calling for

remark, except the planning and general treatment of the stair-turret was very artistically managed. He was also struck with the comparatively narrow width and shallow projections of the tower buttresses, as compared with other towers of the same period. In the second stage above the west doorway was a sculptured figure in a canopied niche on either side of the two-light window. The latter was panelled with stone about half-way up to the springing of the head, and contained representations of the conventional lily growing out of vases, of Renaissance character. One of these was the original; the other had been restored. He was in doubt as to the identity of the male figure on the north side of the window, holding a scroll, until Bishop Clifford suggested it to be the Archangel Gabriel, and that the whole design symbolised the Annunciation. The figure on the south side undoubtedly represented the Virgin. The idea was a well conceived and unusual one, of great interest. There was a fine south porch, with parvise over it. On each side of the east end of the nave were bold, octagonal turrets, carried up to some height—rather uncommon features. These contained the steps up to the rood-loft. It had been said that on great festivals in the church the procession of priests and acolytes went up by one stair-turret and descended by the other. The chancel had been partly rebuilt and much modernised. The east window had been shortened so as to give height for a reredos, but externally the original sill, at a lower level, remained.

The party then entered the church, and Mr. Ferrey drew attention to the excellent mouldings of the tower arch. The nave had a good clerestory. The nave arcade was light and elegant. It had been found necessary, for constructional reasons when the church was restored some years since, to insert tie-rods to the roof, which, of course, rather interfered with the original design. The manner in which the roof was, so to speak, wedded to the walls by means of ornamental wood panelling, stopping on the labels of the clerestory

windows was interesting. A similar treatment was to be found in two churches not far off, *viz.*, at Congresbury and Yatton. There were some corbel heads of curious character above the inner archways of the north and south doors, but he thought all of them were not original. There was a niche, containing a figure of the patron saint of the church, St. Andrew, on the east side of the tower, over the tower arch; also a buttress and string-course. Part of the latter followed a raking line. It seemed very probable, therefore, there had been an earlier nave, before the present one was built, when a cloister was added and the walls heightened. The front of the west gallery was embellished with some very good old Jacobean panelling. The circular font was of the 13th century, and on its bowl was an ornament, which he considered represented sea-weeds—a not unlikely subject for sculpture, as the Bristol Channel was distant only some six miles. It was easy, moreover, to attach a suitable symbolic reference to these sea-weeds. The minute band of sunk quatrefoils round the top of the bowl of the font seemed an addition made in the 15th century. The old oak benches, with shaped ends of poppy-heads, were to be remarked. The stone pulpit attached to one of the piers of the north nave arcade was mediæval, and of elegant Perpendicular design, but a modern stone staircase up to it had been added in late years. Last, not least, to be particularly observed was the magnificent oak rood-screen, designed in the best period of the Perpendicular style, differing from many other examples in being quite as well moulded and decorated on the east side as on the west, and with a loft coved out on both sides.

Mr. Ferrey's views as regarded the ornaments on the font were combated, it being suggested that lilies were intended; but Mr. Ferrey maintained that the sculptures were far more like sea-weeds, as he had considered them to be.

Various objects of interest, in the shape of parochial records, were kindly shown by Mr. THOMAS CASTLE, Churchwarden.

At the invitation of Miss FAZAKERLEY, the party then adjourned to her residence at

The Abbey.

After inspecting the "chapel," on returning to the entrance hall, a vote of thanks was accorded to Miss Fazakerly for her kind reception, to which she duly responded.

The whole house being quite modern, there remains nothing historic but the site, save that perhaps some of the old stones may have been worked in during reconstruction.

A brief visit was then paid to the Vicarage, where the Rev. W. H. TURNER received the party on the lawn. From thence, by invitation, they proceeded to

The Castle.

Rain was now descending, making the walk so very disagreeable that only a portion of the company ventured to the

Roman Landmark.

This, known as the lesser Camp, consists of a square embankment, containing a cruciform earthwork.

Dr. EMERTON having kindly cut the cross and otherwise aided examination by clearing the surface, explained the result of his labours. In accordance with his supposition that something substantial may be found beneath he discovered every indication of solid stone work, besides remains of pottery and bones; but he was not specially rewarded.

The Rev. Prebendary SCARTH said if the exploration were continued the explorers must not be disappointed if they found but little to reward them for their pains. In various parts similar tumuli had been found, and they were believed to be boundary marks, containing, as they did, pieces of pottery, pieces of wood, and even oyster shells; all of which had a significant meaning, as indicating certain limits to the land surveyors of those early days.

Mr. Scarth's remarks are more fully embodied in a paper printed in Part II.

Proceeding next to the Castle, the party rejoined in the park fronting the lawn, where tea was comfortably served in a marquee.

After the tea Dr. EMERTON showed and commented on his various finds in the camps near, and a general conversation ensued.

This concluded the day's explorations.

Mr. PAGET moved a hearty vote of thanks to Dr. and Mrs. Emerton for their great kindness in entertaining the Society.

Dr. EMERTON responded.

Prebendary SCARTH proposed thanks to Mr. Smyth-Pigott for opening the Roman villa at Yatton, and also for excavating at Woodspring, thus materially enhancing the interest of the Society's meeting.

A vote of thanks accorded the Local Hon. Secretaries and Committee, acknowledged by Mr. WOOLER, brought the proceedings to a close. The party then repaired to "Trafalgar-square," where conveyances were in waiting, and returned to Weston-super-Mare in good time, the pleasure of the journey being materially marred by a drenching downpour.

The Local Museum.

Ancient Carved Figure, "The Sorrowful Mother," said to have come from Woodspring Priory; and a Drawing of the old Church of St. John, Weston-super-Mare; by Mr. PRICE.

The Original Pardon granted by James II to Edmund Prideaux of Ford Abbey for imputed complicity in Monmouth's Rebellion, on his paying a fine of £15,000 to Judge Jeffreys; by Mr. HUGH NORRIS.

A collection of remains from the Roman Villa recently discovered at Wemberham near Yatton; and a large number of Roman Coins, from a hoard found at Kingston Seymour; by Mr. CECIL SMYTH-PIGOTT.

Some curious and rare 17th Century Books relating to the county, Local Tracts, and Guide Books; also a Map of Weston-super-Mare, 1791; by Mr. E. E. BAKER.

A collection of Land and Fresh Water Shells from the neighbourhood of Weston; by Mr. W. H. PALMER.

Impressions of Somersetshire Seals, and a good collection of English Coins; by the Rev. W. F. ROSE.

Additions to Museum and Library.

THE MUSEUM:

Earthen Vessel for brewing a "Peck of Malt;" from Mr. W. MAYNARD.

Medals of the Exhibition (1851), of George III (1817), and of the Prince and Princess of Wales (1863); Bank Token, 10d. Irish, 1805; Bank Token, 5d. Irish, 1805; Charring Cross Shilling; Bristol Shilling; London Sixpence; from Mr. A. MAYNARD.

A collection of Plaster Casts of Engraved Gems ; from the Rev. W. H. LANCE.

Piece of Fossil Wood and other Fossils, from Portland ; piece of Ore from which white lead is extracted ; from Mr. SURTEES.

Twelve Stone Implements and a Shell ; from Mr. CULLEN, Picton, New Zealand.

Silver Penny of William I, struck at Romney ; from Mr. J. MARSHALL.

Leaden Bulla of Pope Honorius III, found on the site of the Priory, Taunton, 1885 ; from Mr. WM. HOCKIN.

Sixteen Flint Implements, found on the Cotswold Hills ; from the Rev. J. H. CARDEW.

A Wedgwood Hyacinth Pot ; from Mr. BARNICOTT.

Models of Tropical Fruits, etc. ; from Lady DOUGLAS.

Two Bath Tokens—F. Heath, 1794 ; S. T. Whitchurch and W. Dore, 1811.

Seven Silver Tokens—One Shilling, North Cornwall, 1811 ; One Shilling, Worcester County and City, 1811 ; One Shilling, Marlborough Old Bank, 1811 ; One Shilling, Dorsetshire, Wiltshire, and Shaftesbury Bank, 1811 ; One Shilling, Newport, Isle of Wight, 1811 ; One Shilling, Wm. Lintott and Sons, Romsey ; XII Pence, W. S. and J. Wakeford, Andover, 1811 ; from Mr. HOWARD MAYNARD.

Piece of Stained Glass from Wilton Church ; from Mr. SPENCER.

Brass Engraved Box or Case, found at Cleeve Abbey ; from the Rev. W. P. TREVELYAN.

Some Fossils from Swindon ; from Mr. HARTNELL.

Model of the Market Buildings, Taunton, and a fac-simile of the Death Warrant of Charles I ; from Miss WOLRIGE.

James I 2d.-piece, and Two Silver Coins of Hadrian, found at Somerton ; from Colonel PINNEY.

Token of John Glyde, Taunton ; from Rev. C. S. P. PARISH.

Fragment of a British Urn, found near Willett, 1834; from Mr. BLOMMART.

Blow-tube and Case of Poisoned Darts, Spear, and Daggers, from Perak; from Mr. JOHN BABB.

LIBRARY:

History of the Family of Fortescue: Supplement to Chapter I; from Lord CLERMONT.

Murray's *Handbook to Wilts, Dorset, and Somerset*, 4th edition; from the PUBLISHER.

History of the House of Arundel; from Lord ARUNDEL OF WARDOUR.

Gloucestershire Notes and Queries, pts. 27, 28, 29, 30; from the Editor, Rev. BEAVER H. BLACKER.

Western Antiquary, Nos. 1 to 10; from the Editor, Mr. W. H. K. WRIGHT.

Calendar of State Papers, Domestic Series, 1667; from H.M. Stationery Office.

Notices of an English Branch of the Malet Family; from the author, Mr. A. MALET.

Exeter during the Religious Persecutions and Rebellions; from the author, Mr. T. J. NORTHY.

Visitors' Handbook to Weston-super-Mare; from the Rev. W. JACKSON.

Some Observations Upon the Law of Ancient Demesne; from the author, Mr. PYM YATEMAN.

History of the Family of Yea; from Sir FRANCIS W. GRANT, Bart.

Adam's *Roman Antiquities*; *The Life and Times of Sir Thomas Gresham*, 2 vols.; *Discoveries in Asia Minor*; Aikin's *Memoirs of the Court of Queen Elizabeth*; *Sermons*, Taunton, 1847, 2 vols.; from Mr. SLOPER.

Literary Studies, 2 vols.; *Biographical Studies*; *Economic Studies*; *On the Depreciation of Silver*; *Essays on Parlia-*

mentary Reform; Lombard Street—a Description of the Money Market; Physics and Politics; The English Constitution, by the late Walter Bagehot; from Mrs. BAGEHOT.

Cuthberht of Lindisfarne—his Life and Times; from the author, Dr. A. C. FRYER.

Northamptonshire Natural History Society.—*Proceedings*, Nos. 21, 22, 23.

Catalogue of the Library at Chatsworth, 4 vols.; from the DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE.

On a hoard of Roman Coins discovered in Cobham Park; from Mr. C. ROACH SMITH.

Notes on the Ancient Recorded Topography of Devon; from the author, Mr. R. N. WORTH.

The Athenian Mercury, January 29, 1695; from Mr. F. WOODLAND.

Calendar of University College, Toronto, for 1886.

Official Handbook of New Zealand, and *The King Country*; from the New Zealand Government, through the Mayor of Taunton.

Glossary of Words used in the Neighbourhood of Wincanton; from Mr. SWEETMAN.

Etchings of Glastonbury Abbey; from Mr. SHEPPARD DALE.

Some odd numbers of *Miscellanea Graphica*, and *Remains of Pagan Saxondom*; from Mr. G. E. JEMMETT.

Historical and Political Studies, xi, xii—City of Washington.

Hampshire Notes and Queries, 2 vols.; from Mr. W. S. GARDINER.

A true and most Dreadful Discourse of a Woman Possessed with the Devill, at Ditchet in Sommersetshire, 1584 (reprint, 1885), from the Editor, Mr. E. E. BAKER.

Bakewell's *Introduction to Geology*; Conybeare and Phillips's *Geology*; Hill's *Fossils*; Burnet's *Poland*; Hall's *Journal to Chili, Peru, and Mexico*, 2 vols.; *Letters of the Marchioness of Pompadour*, 3 vols.; *Guide to Exeter*, 1821; *Guide to Leamington and Warwick*; from the Rev. I. S. GALE.

Catalogue of the Bristol Library and of the Plymouth Free Library.

Memoirs of a Manager, by Henry Lee, 2 vols.; from Mr. SCARLETT.

Harmonies of Tones and Colours developed by Evolution, 2 vols.; from the authoress, Miss F. J. HUGHES.

Genom Amerika (*Through America*, in the Sweedish language); from the author, Mr. W. G. MARSHALL.

Translation of the Lincolnshire Survey, temp. Henry I.

Hale's *Graves of our Fathers*; Wyatt's *Varieties in Verse*; *Minutes of Evidence on the Berkeley Claim*, 1811; *Bristol Poll Book*, 1841; Haines's *Guide to Gloucester Cathedral*; Hunt's *Bristol, Newport, and Welsh Towns Directory*; *Royal Cheltenham and County Directory*, 1872-3; Williams's *Lays and Legends of Gloucestershire*; *Legends, Tales, and Songs in the Gloucestershire Dialect*; Roger's *Calendars of Al-Hallowen, Brystow*; Townsend's *Tour in Italy*; *Memorials of Mrs. E. J. Prust*; Boulton's *Six Sermons at Cheltenham*; *Opening Services of the Presbyterian Church, Bristol*; *The Siege and History of Londonderry*; *Poetry of Bygone Days*; *Remains of the Rev. Edward Tottenham of Bath*; from the Rev. B. H. BLACKER.

Observations on the Snowdon Mountains; *Gazeteer of France*, 1793; from Mr. A. HAMMETT.

History of the Parish and Manor of Wookey; from the author, Rev. T. S. HOLMES.

Received in exchange for the Society's Proceedings:—

Royal Archæological Institute.—*Journal*, Nos. 166, 167, 168.

British Archæological Association.—*Journal*, June, Sept., Dec., 1885; March, 1886.

Society of Antiquaries of London.—*Proceedings*, vol. x, Nos. 2, 3.

Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.—*Proceedings*, vols. i to vii, new series.

Royal Irish Academy.—*Transactions* (Science), vol. 28, Nos. 17 to 20; *Proceedings* (Science), vol. iv, Nos. 3, 4; ditto, (Antiquities), vol. ii, No. 6; *Irish Lexicography: an Introductory Lecture*.

Royal Historical and Archæological Association of Ireland. *Journal*, Nos. 60 to 63.

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Sussex Archæological Society.—*Domesday Survey for the County of Sussex*.

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Surrey Archæological Society.—*Collections*, vol. ix, pt. i.

Wiltshire Archæological and Natural History Society.—*Magazine*, Nos. 65, 66.

London and Middlesex Archæological Society.—*Transactions*, pt. 19; *East Barnet*.

Plymouth Institution.—*Transactions*, vol. ix, pt. 1.

Bristol and Gloucestershire Archæological Society.—*Transactions*, vol. ix, pts. 1, 2; *Wills in the Great Orphan Book*, No. 4.

The Powys Land Club.—*Montgomeryshire Collections*, vol. xviii, pts. 2 and 3.

Derbyshire Archæological and Natural History Society.—*Journal*, vol. viii.

Shropshire Archæological Society.—*Transactions*, vol. ix, pt. 2.

Hertfordshire Natural History Society.—*Transactions*, vol. iii, pts. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9.

Leicestershire Architectural and Archæological Society.—vol. vi, pt. 2.

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Royal Institution of Cornwall.—*Journal*, vol. viii, pt. 4.

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Literary and Philosophical Society of Liverpool.—*Proceedings*, vol. 38.

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The Visitation of Somersetshire, 1531, 1573.

Pipe Roll Society, vols. 3, 4.

Cartularium Saxonicum, pts. 12 to 16.

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Registers of St. James's, Clerkenwell, vol. ii, Harleian Society.

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Proceedings
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Natural History Society,
1885, *Part II.*

PAPERS, ETC.

*The Roman Villa at Wemberham in Yatton; and discovery
of Roman Coins near Kingston Seymour.*

BY REV. PREBENDARY SCARTH, M.A.

“IN the Parish of Yatton is a Manor called Ham and Wemberham, the property of John Pigott, of Brockley, Esq.” This is all the mention made of Wemberham by Col-linson, the historian of Somerset, whose work was published in 1791.

Rutter, who published his *Delineations of the N.W. Division of Somerset* in 1829, in giving an account of the parish of Yatton, tells us that “an ancient sepulchre was discovered in 1828, on the property of J. H. Pigott, Esq., in a field called Great Wemberham, within the parish of Yatton, and about a mile and a half N.E. of the church, towards Kingston Seymour. About a foot below the surface was a freestone coffin, with a lid, shaped to the body, and fractured ; it was of un-

common thickness, and had been excavated out of a solid block. It contained, besides the principal bones of a skeleton of middle stature, some parts of a lead coffin. The local situation of this interment is extraordinary, having in former times been a wild lonely spot, far distant from human habitation, and over which the waters of the Channel frequently flowed, previously to the modern embankments. The head of the coffin pointed to the north-west, a proof of its great antiquity, and it is conjectured that it was originally covered by a tumulus, which was levelled for agricultural purposes; this will account for its lying so near the surface, and for the absence of large portions of the lead coffin."

So thought and so wrote Rutter, who has happily recorded this discovery; but the still more recent discovery of the site of a Roman villa, with remains of six tessellated floors and two hypocausts, close upon the bank of the river, and the still more recent discovery of a large hoard of coins, serves to show that this district was early brought under cultivation, and that Roman civilization had planted itself firmly in this part of Britain, and had carried out important works in the neighbourhood.

Roman remains have been found both at Clevedon and Yatton, and not long ago a Roman interment was discovered on Cadbury, which is recorded in the *Proceedings of the Somerset Archæological and Natural History Society*.

The villa at Wemberham, now under notice, discovered in 1884, contains not fewer than ten rooms, which have been cleared, and more may yet be discovered. Much care has been taken in opening out these chambers; they have been protected from damage, and all the fragments of wall painting or of bone or metal, and all coins have been carefully collected by the present owner, who has exhibited a laudable zeal in their preservation.

Unfortunately very little of the masonry remains, as the walls have been destroyed to below the surface, but what does

remain is of good workmanship, and thoroughly Roman in character.

There are the remains of a considerable hypocaust, and traces of a bath adjoining. The rooms are of the ordinary dimensions found in Roman villas, and the tessellated floors are not inferior in workmanship to those found elsewhere in Britain. The tesserae are of white, blue, and red; the materials being obtained near at hand. Unhappily, by reason of their proximity to the river, the pavements have suffered from inundations when the embankment has been neglected.

The great interest of this villa is its situation on a level tract of land, through which the river Yeo flows. This position shows clearly that the villa could not have been built in Roman times unless the river had been previously confined to its natural channel; and thus we are brought to the conclusion that the embankments which are now so carefully attended to, must be Roman in their origin.

Happily, we have complete confirmation of this fact, not confined to Somerset. Embankments are proved to have been constructed in Roman times on the opposite side of the Bristol Channel in Monmouthshire, also in Lincolnshire, in Cambridgeshire, in Sussex, and in Kent; so that the work of recovering land by means of draining and embanking has been well established.

In the autumn of 1878, at Goldcliff, near Newport, on the Bristol Channel, a stone was washed out of an embankment by the action of the tide. This was found to be inscribed, and had upon it the letters—

COH. I
STATORI
M. M. I.
II.

The slab was 21 inches long by 14 inches at the top, and 11 at the bottom. It is described in the *Proceedings of the Monmouth and Caerleon Antiquarian Association*, 1882.

“There is on the shore of the Channel, on both sides of the river Usk, an extent of flat land, which has been reclaimed from the sea by a raised embankment, called the sea wall, which continues for a distance of 20 miles, reaching from the mouth of the river Rumney nearly to the Wye at Chepstow.

“Before this embankment was formed this extensive tract of country must have been a great marsh, a considerable portion of it being many feet below the level of the tide, and, were it not for the embankment, it would be flooded at the present time. The sea wall prevents the tide from overflowing the land, and the marshy swamp has been drained by means of deep ditches, which have sluices at their outlet. Before the finding of this inscribed stone, it was uncertain by whom this embankment was made or the ditches formed.”

Neither Saxons nor Danes “had sufficient hold of the country to attempt so great a work, and the Normans, when they came, found it a district embanked, drained, inhabited, and cultivated ready to their hands, and divided into manors and parishes.”

The finding of this stone shows it to have been the work of the Romans. The lettering proves that a detachment from the first Cohort, under a Centurion named Statorius, executed a certain portion of the work, which was probably about two miles or more—for the lettering is not quite clear. “The great interest of the inscription lies in the fact that the military were employed, and it is clear that the Cohort mentioned was one of those composing the Second Legion, stationed at Isca Silurum, now Caerleon.”

We know that the Car dyke, reaching from the river Nen, near Peterborough, and ending in the parish of Washingborough, near Lincoln, a distance of 56 miles, was the work of the Romans.¹

(1). See Archdeacon Trollope's *Sleaford and the Wapentakes of Flaxwell and Ashwardburn, in the county of Lincoln*; see also, *Archæological Journal*, vol. xviii. pp. 394-5; and *Journal of Archæological Association*, vol. xl. p. 185.

The Rhee Wall, also near Lymne, in Kent, is a work of the Romans, by which 24,000 acres were recovered from the sea. This was done by throwing up a high bank or earth wall, and cutting a deep channel parallel with the earth wall.¹

If such works were carried on in the south and east of Britain by the Romans, we may well believe that they were equally active in the west, where they had undisputed possession for full three hundred years, and where the country appears to have been more settled, if we may judge from the remains of villas which have been found. It is almost a certainty, therefore, that many of the embankments which keep out the high tides and overflow of the Severn estuary in Somerset, are the work of the Romans, and that the deep rhynes or ditches were first cut by them. These were, no doubt, left uncared for in the ages which succeeded the Roman period. They were probably kept up for a time, but as the country became convulsed by invasion, and men were drawn away for its defence, they fell into neglect, and the land became again subject to inundation.

The banks of the Yeo, by which the water was restrained to its proper channel no doubt shared the same fate, and the site of the villa at Wemberham became overflowed at certain times, and uninhabitable. It then became a quarry for material and a harbour for wild animals, until all outward vestiges were removed. When the country became settled, after the Norman conquest, these banks and ditches were again repaired and strengthened, and the land held by the Abbeyes and large landed proprietors was well protected against floods, and considerable portions also reclaimed; but the first lessons in restricting the channels of rivers and reclaiming land from the sea is due to the Roman power. From the Roman the art was learned which now is so productive of good to our country, and as the Roman taught the art of gardening and an im-

(1). See Roach Smith's *Report of Excavations made on the site of the Roman Castrum, at Lymne.*

proved system of agriculture, so did he teach the art of draining and reclaiming the land, and confining the courses of the rivers to their proper channels.

Twenty-one coins were found in the course of excavating the villa, the earliest being that of the reign of Gallienus, A.D. 253—268; the latest, that of Constantius, A.D. 305—or later, if the coin belonged to Constantius II, A.D. 337—361. We may therefore assign the date of the villa to the third or the fourth century.

The hoard of coins found at Kingston Seymour, two miles from the villa, in November, 1884, numbers 800, among which are those of the Emperor Gallienus, A.D. 253—268; Postumus, A.D. 258; the Tetrici, A.D. 267—272, and A.D. 276—282; Claudius Gothicus, 269—270; Victorinus the elder, 265—267; Salonina, A.D. 268.

These coins, therefore, so far as they have been examined, are of the latter portion of the 3rd century of the Christian era. It is probable, therefore, that the land in the vicinity of the villa was reclaimed and brought into cultivation in the second half of the 3rd and the beginning of the 4th century; at all events, it had then been made fit for permanent occupation.

The latest coin would indicate the period at which the peaceable occupation was interrupted.

Many hoards of Roman coins have been found around Bristol. Barrett mentions those discovered prior to the date of his history. Seyer gives those which came under his own observation.¹ They have been found on Clifton Down, on the site of a Roman villa, and extend from the date of Nero to that of Trajan. They have been found at Portbury, Shirehampton, Seamills, Henbury, Blaize Hill, Leigh Down, Wraxall Hill, Tickenham, Cadbury Camp, near Clevedon; and Cadbury Camp, near Yatton; at Nailsea and Kenmoor, and on Leigh Down, in the parish of Ashton. Many of the hoards were lost or dispersed.

(1). See vol. i. c. ii. pp. 154—174.

In 1875 a hoard was found in the suburb of Easton, on the line of the Roman road leading to Bath. This hoard amounted to many thousands; only 732 were saved and examined. Six hundred are of the reign of Constantius Chlorus and Constantine the Great: 70 belonging to Constantius, and 530 to Constantine. There are also coins of Crispus, Licinius, Dioclesian, Maximian, Maximin Daza, Maxentius, Probus, Carausius, Carinus, Claudius II, and Gallienus.

They seem to have been hidden away about the middle of the 4th century. Another hoard was discovered in 1874, by the side of an ancient footpath leading from Bristol to Maesknoll. These ranged from Claudius to Maximianus, and as no coins of Constantine were found, the coins are supposed to have been deposited previous to his reign.

A large hoard was found in 1880, at a spot between Netherways and Filton. The coins had been buried in an earthen jar of common half-baked clay, in the bank of an old watercourse. The hoard consisted of upwards of 3,000 third brasses of Licinius, Constantine the Great, and his son, and had been coined chiefly at Lyons¹ and at Treves. A great number of the smaller coins were lost, but between 4,000 and 5,000 were recovered.²

These hoards, hid away in these localities, and at different periods, and the continued fresh discoveries of coin, like that recently made at Kingston Seymour, must surely indicate a neighbourhood active, commercial, and prosperous; and the discoveries are not confined to one part of Britain alone, but extend to places wherever the Romans obtained a settlement. Roman money was largely circulated, and must have been actively employed in payment of labour, and for cultivation of produce.

(1). Mr. Nichols states them to have been coined in *London*, because they bear the stamp P.L.N.; but this stands for *Lugdunum* (Lyons). The coins struck in London have the mint mark P. LON., and are of a different fabric from those of Lyons. I am indebted for this correction to Mr. Roach Smith, F.S.A.

(2). See *Bristol—Past and Present*, vol. i. p. 25.

Mr. Roach Smith, in a paper published in the *Sussex Archaeological Collections*,¹ has noted, classified, and arranged some of these discoveries of hoards of Roman coins in different parts of Britain. He has noted the places, the dates and relative numbers of the coins found in Yorkshire and Northumberland, as well as in the South of England. "A few years since nearly 30,000 coins were found at Blackmore, in Hampshire: of these, 545 were of Carausius, 90 of Allectus, but none of Constantius;" and from the date of these coins he infers that they must have been hidden away on the invasion of Britain by Asclepiodotus in command under Constantius. "This important deposit very fortunately fell into the hands of Lord Selborne, who has published an excellent report of it in the *Numismatic Chronicle*, 1877.

Mr. T. Watkin, in his *Roman Lancashire*, has carefully brought together the recorded discoveries of Roman coins in that county, some of which were in considerable numbers, and dated from the earliest to the latest possession of Britain by the Romans, and he observes, "Had these hoards been examined when entire, and reported upon, they would have yielded more information regarding the state of the country in the Roman period. . . The coins of the latest date in each hoard may be considered as approximately marking the time when they were deposited in the ground." Two lots which he records appear to have been hidden about the period of the insurrection in the reign of Commodus.

Four lots about the time of Gallus and Volusianus (A.D. 252), or a little later, in the disturbed reign of Gallienus.

Four lots indicate the unsettled state of Britain in the usurpation under Carausius, and the invasion and re-union of the Empire under Constantius Chlorus. Hoards of a similar kind, composed of coins of a like date, are found in all parts of Britain, and seem to denote the ebb and flow of Roman power in the island.

It would be well that in every future discovery of Roman coins, they should be carefully examined, classified, and recorded, as additional light would thus be thrown upon the Roman history of Britain, and our local Archæological Societies should use every effort to have this effectually carried out.



On an Ancient Roman "Botontinus" or Landmark on Banwell Hill.

BY REV. PREBENDARY SCARTH, M.A.

ON the north side of the Roman road along the Mendip Hills, and west of the Camp at Banwell, is an ancient Roman landmark.

When Sir R. C. Hoare caused a survey to be made of the line of Roman road extending between Uphill and Old Sarum, the surveyor, Mr. Crocker, noted an earth-work, with a slight bank and ditch, having a cross in the centre, and entered it on his plan. Sir Richard gives a large drawing of it in his *Ancient Wilts* when treating of the Roman period, but does not enter into any explanation of it. Subsequent enquiry and examination has led to a better understanding of this ancient mark of Roman dominion, and has cleared up the doubt and difficulty that once surrounded it.

Mr. Coote, in his work on *The Romans in Britain*, when treating of the interesting subject of the Roman colonization of this island, and explaining the method of apportioning the conquered territory, in speaking of the work of the *agrimensores*, or Roman land surveyors, observes, "In Somersetshire, at a place called Banwell Camp, is an earth-work, consisting of an oblong enclosure, with the angles rounded off. This earth-work is 55 yards in length and 45 in breadth, having a slight agger and fosse. In the centre is a ridge of earth, forming a Greek cross, raised about two feet above the rest of the enclosure, and four feet broad." This earth-work is also noted by Mr. Phelps, in his *History of Somerset*, who copies from Sir R. C. Hoare.

These ancient "botontini" are not unknown in other parts

of England, but have been noted in many places. A cross in masonry within the Castellum or fort, at Richborough in Kent, has much exercised the minds of antiquaries, but is supposed by Mr. Coote to be only a "botontinus" of earlier date, which had been enclosed within the fort of later construction, when that part of the coast was fortified against the attacks of pirates from the northern shores of Europe—the fort at Richborough being only one of a chain constructed in the 3rd and 4th centuries, to protect the British coast.

These crosses were sometimes covered with a mound. This was found to have been the case at Helperthorpe, in the Wolds of Yorkshire. The mound on being opened there was found to contain pieces of pottery, an iron horse-shoe, fragments of red tile, and lumps of burnt sandstone. Under the mound was a cruciform platform, protected by walls built of native chalk. The cross was of Greek form, like the buried cross at Banwell, and, like it, raised in relief upon the natural ground.¹

Let us consider, then, what is meant by this cruciform figure.

The subject of *termini* or boundary marks is of much interest, but much has been done to destroy them in this country, through ignorance of their meaning and their original purpose for marking out estates. "Removing the ancient landmark" was not only a sin under the Jewish law, but wherever property came to be held as a possession, it was a crime.

Boundary marks in ancient, as well as in modern, times, were very varied; sometimes trees, sometimes stones, marked or unmarked; sometimes mounds or barrows of earth, under which were placed certain "indicia" or tokens, by which they could be recognised as boundary marks. It is not needful to go into the Roman law, under which the divisions of a conquered territory were apportioned to colonists. There are those more competent than myself to go into the particulars of this

(1). See *Buried Cruciform Platforms in Yorkshire*, by Chas. Monkman; *Yorkshire Archaeological and Topographical Journal*, vol. xi. pp. 69—75; also, Coote's *Romans of Britain*, p. 101.

subject. I will only refer to some authorities for the "*Lex Colonica*" to which reference may be made, such as the Theodocian Code, and the work of Hygynus to which Mr. Coote in his very useful volume makes frequent reference. Whatever was done in Roman times was done under authority, and rested upon the firm basis of *law*. The "*Lex Colonica*" was carried out by a Commission, and this consisted of a military corps, with augurs, land surveyors, and architects; but the measurements of the land rested with the *agrimensor*, or surveyor, and he went upon a system, as all surveyors must.

Mr. Coote observes that we have evidence that the artificial boundaries of a city's territory consisted of roads, stone altars, and *termini* of a particular kind. The territory having been assigned, was marked out by *centuriation*, and in this manner the surveyor proceeded. He divided the territory by a line drawn from east to west into two parts—called right and left; the right being on the north of the surveyor as he looked west; the south being on his left. Another intersecting line was taken from south to north, and this divided the land into two more portions; that which faced the surveyor being called *ultra*, or beyond; that behind him *citra*, or the opposite direction; these divisions were called *regiones*, the intersection of the lines being called the *umbelicus*, or central point.

The line drawn from east to west was called the *decumanus maximus*; that from south to north, the *cardo maximus*. The two lines, when noted on a plan, or on the surface of the ground, *formed a cross*. This cross, then, at Banwell, on the hill, marks the intersection of these two lines, and indicates that a "*territorium*" had been marked out at this point. How far it may have extended we know not, but we have most certain proof of Roman occupation, and it is an interesting relic of the former subject condition of this portion of our island.

That this district was an important possession in Roman

times there can be no doubt. Let us suppose ourselves standing in the centre of this "botontinus," and looking westward, with the Roman *agrimensor*. The Roman road (according to Sir R. C. Hoare's survey, which seems to have been done with care and accuracy) passes close to the south side of the earth-work containing the cross. From the centre of the cross we look westward on Brean Down, and the mouth of the river Axe. On that down are unmistakeable marks of Roman occupation, and Roman remains have been found there. Uphill Bay formed a safe anchorage for Roman galleys, while all the surface of Brean Down is marked with traces of Roman habitation.

On the south side of Bleadon Hill, before cultivation had extended itself up the slope, there were very distinct marks of an aboriginal settlement. These were noted especially by the surveyors of Sir R. Hoare, and the remains are marked on his plan. I can remember observing them myself thirty-five years ago. If the Roman *agrimensor* turned to the east, he looked upon the rich mineral district of the Mendip Hills, abundant in lead—a mineral of which the Romans well knew the value, and which for three hundred years was worked by them, and so well worked that all the virgin ore has been appropriated!

If we turn with the Roman *agrimensor* and look north,—towards Weston and Clevedon, to the mouth of the Yeo, at Kingston Seymour,—we there find the remains of villas and deposits of Roman money, the date of which carries us on to the commencement of the 4th century, if not later; and during a period of 300 years we find the Roman reclaiming the waste land from the sea, and draining the marsh and tilling the land, as well as working out the mineral, and teaching the natives of Britain that which they had never learned before.

These ancient boundary marks are matters of great interest in other countries. Since the above paper was written I have received a quarto pamphlet, published in Naples (1877), on an

ancient terminal stone found on the estate of Signor Augusto Monaco, in 1874, in the province of "Terra di Lavoro," and preserved in his villa at Portici. It has been recorded by Professor Mommsen, in the 10th volume of the *Corp. Inscrip. Latin.*, and is exceedingly curious from the antique form of the letters with which the stone was inscribed. It gives the names of three commissioners who were sent to define the boundary of a disputed territory

Such examples of early arbitrations are not unknown, and one is given in Rich's *Companion to the Greek Lexicon and Latin Dictionary*, p. 162, under the word *Cippus*. The stone there represented is preserved in the Museum at Verona, and is said to be one of the oldest authentic Roman inscriptions extant, but the stone recently found in the territory of *Fran-colise* appears from the form of the lettering to be much more ancient.¹ It is not improbable such records may still be found within the limits of our own island.

(1). See *Lapide Terminale Arcaica dell' agro Falerno Illustrati dal Dottore Carmelo Mancini*. Napoli, 1877.

Bath as a Roman Camp—Rectangular, not Pentagonal.

BY GEORGE ESDAILE, C.E.

AS introductory to the following argument, it may be well to mention that the Roman camp in “Cæsar”—with which we were familiar at an earlier stage of our existence, and as given in Polybius (206—124 B.C.)—was 1,620 feet square; whilst that which was adopted on the increase of the legion to 15,000 men of all arms was a parallelogram, one-half larger than that of “Cæsar,” and was called “*tertiata*”—literally of three halves. The latter form, presumably, was chosen as “the camp” of the legions of the army sent by the Emperor Claudius into Britain, and such an hypothesis is reduced to a certainty when we find an area in Chester, clearly defined by two sides of a parallelogram (respectively 2,320 feet by 1,620 feet), being the length and breadth as given by Hyginus Gromaticus (1st century).

The method adopted in the formation of the square camp was in the manner following:—The site having been chosen, the proper officer planted the “groma” or “boning stick” into the ground, and at a distance of about 810 feet on either side there would be the lines of the counterscarps of the ditches. In forming the larger camp, the parallelogram, this distance of 810 feet remained on two sides and one end, whilst the remaining end, inclusive of the counterscarp of the fosse, would be at a distance of 1,510 feet from the “groma.” As the rule in the formation of the camp was invariable, also the position or places of the soldiers, the *Valetudinarium*, etc., every branch of the service comprised in the legion would be cognizant of the number of paces that its special quarters would be from

the "groma," and so at once could take up its accustomed position.

It is said that the Julian way—the Via Julia—which passes by Bath, was so called after its constructor, Julius Frontinus, who had the command in Britain immediately before Agricola, A.U.C. 826—831. This Frontinus was by profession a surveyor before he took to a military life, and if he were not the personal friend of Hyginus he certainly was familiar with his writings, as *vide*. his work, *Strategemata*, etc. See also, *The Strategems Sleyghtes and Policies of Warre*, gathered together by S. Julius Frontinus, and translated into English by Rycharde Morysine, 1539, and other editions; also, *Aquaeductibus*, by Frontinus, published in 1490. I choose to ignore Vegetius, a writer of the fourth century, as an authority on Roman camps of the first century, when the works of Hyginus and Frontinus are exhaustive of the subject.

Before adducing the argument in support of my title statement, I should like to give some evidence of the superiority of the site of Bath for the purposes of a camp, and to show that the area could not be swampy, as has generally been held.

Sir H. de la Beche, in his report on the sanitary condition of Bath, states, "With the exception of the alluvial flat at the bottom of the valley, the ground upon which Bath stands affords great natural facilities for drainage."¹

Mr. Telford, C.E., in his report to the Corporation of Bath, 1823 (embodied in Sir H. de la Beche's report), conclusively shows that the flooding of the alluvial lands of the flat is "in a great measure produced by artificial obstructions in the river, by encroachments on the banks of the river, and by mill dams or weirs, all of which retard the natural discharge of river waters. Mr. Bristow, C.E., F.G.S. (in the same report), adds evidence to prove the dryness of the lias and clay formation at Holloway.

(1). *Health of Towns Commission*, 1845, vol. i. p. 267. *Vide*. Geological Map accompanying the Report.



PLAN OF BATH
 SHEWING A ROMAN CAMP
 ACCORDING TO HYGINUS
 laid down in double dotted lines

On this area, as included in the De la Beche report, the whole of a consular camp, as laid down by Hyginus, would be high and dry on the lias; bounded on the east by the Avon; on the west, by Avon Street and the west side of Queen's Square; on the north, by a line a few yards to the north of George Street; and on the south, by a line parallel with the last mentioned line, and drawn at right angles to Stall Street, at the junction with the lower borough walls.

Such is a rough outline of the boundaries of the camp, containing about 86 acres, which I argue was the original form and position of Roman Bath, as shown in the accompanying plan.

I assume that on the occupation of Britain, in the first century all consular camps were made in pairs, for summer and winter use, and that we must look for a summer camp in the immediate locality. This we find on "Combe Down."

In proof of the above assertion, on turning to any old plan of Bath, it will be seen that the south, east, and west gates occupied the same relative positions as in the camp according to Hyginus: and that the range of baths at the corner of Stall Street and York Street also occupied the same relative position with the *Valetudinarium* in such camp of Hyginus. It is further seen that the hypocaust at the easterly end of the range is on the identical spot occupied by the hypocaust under the precentor's house in Lincoln, close to the Exchequer Gate; in the same position as that found in Chester, at the corner of Bridge Street and Feathers' Lane; on the same site as that found in Leicester, at the corner of High Cross Street and Black Friars' Lane; and in the same position as that found within the last few years in the Abbey grounds at Malmesbury.

Again, the hypocaust at the westerly end of the range of baths in Bath is relatively in the same position as the remains found at Manchester, which the Rev. John Haygarth considered to be undoubtedly a hypocaust.

Seeing also that in the places or cities above cited, all un-

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doubted full-sized Roman camps, the "gates" correspond in distance with those of the south, east, and west gates of Bath, it is reasonably clear that there is a very great similarity in the plotting and construction of the several parts spoken of.

Some have assumed that the Roman city of Bath was a vast range of baths,—purely a great sanatorium,—and that the ruins of baths should be found everywhere within its limits; but proof to the contrary exists in the discoveries made when the Grand Hotel was built on the west side of Stall Street, as on excavating the foundations nothing at all approaching the character of such remains was found; a few massive foundations, and nothing else.

On the question as to the shape of Bath "city," considerable evidence has been adduced to prove that such "city" was always of a pentagonal form. From the above argument and comparison with other Roman cities I claim the contrary.

A camp of the size and character described by Hyginus would be a necessity for the conquering legions introduced in the reign of Claudius,—whose freedman Hyginus was, and who may possibly have superintended the choosing of the site and the laying out of the camp.

Thus much I am quite willing to concede, that the "city" became pentagonal, but was, as such, the natural outcome of circumstances following the subjugation of the Britons. The Romans, when they had subdued the Britons, had no necessity for the full-sized camp, a parallelogram of such a capacity as that of Hyginus; they simply, therefore, reduced it, preserved the south, east, and west gates, drawing a diagonal line from the two latter to the former, and having rebuilt the north end on the line known to us as the upper borough walls, closed in the remaining portions of the east and west gates and so constructed a pentagon of practically one-fourth the area of the camp of Hyginus and therefore easier of defence, and preserving the range of baths which had existed in the old *Valetudinarium* for use in the new "city."

That such a reduction of the area of the "camp" was made from the lines I have laid down, is to a considerable extent corroborated by a passage in Leland. "From the south-west angle," says he, "has been an additional wall and a ditch, carried out to the river, by which short work the approach of an enemy on two sides is cut off, unless they pass the river."

Taking the actual statement of fact by Leland, as far as "the river," and omitting his commentary, we have a line of wall and ditch exactly corresponding with the wall and ditch I have assumed to exist when the "camp" occupied the site of that portion of the high ground upon which I have placed it.

I argue, then, that Bath was not originally pentagonal, and that on research being made, by measurement from the given fixed spots bearing Roman remains, the foundations or remains of a full-sized consular camp will be found.

Somerset Epitaphs: Quaint, Curious, and Pathetic.

BY REV. W. HARDMAN, LL.D.,

Vicar of St. Katherine's, Felton Common.

IT is one of the regrets of my life that I did not years ago commence to form a collection of epitaphs. But perhaps it is necessary that we should advance into middle-age before we can fully appreciate the quaint humour and the pathetic eloquence which are often to be found on some mouldering tablet of Elizabethan days. It is sad to observe how ruthlessly our sepulchral monuments and inscriptions have been treated,—especially during the last fifty years,—while the rage for encaustic tilings has caused many an interesting slab to be concealed; and the taste for Gothic architecture, though most commendable in itself, has often led architects and church restorers to treat with scant courtesy the elaborate tablets of the renaissance and classical styles.

There are, of course, a vast number of epitaphs composed in Latin, full of ponderous learning and elegant composition, but which would be apt to weary an audience if read at full length, and therefore it will be best for me to select for your consideration a few of the most racy and striking of the epitaphs in our county which are written in English. And in these one often finds examples of that wondrous power and art of writing English, which was the special characteristic of that era which began with Shakespeare and ended with Jeremy Taylor. From the time of Elizabeth, then, to that of Charles the Second, is the great period for oddity, pride, and pathos mixed together; for after that reign comes an era of intense and uninteresting pomposity; and after that time the Georgian period is often not only dull, but vulgar and diffuse, and only

now and then relieved with examples of a humorous simplicity.

Our ancestors must have spent a long time over the composition of these epitaphs, and often they could not resist the temptation of making a pun !

Thus at Cannington church we have an epitaph on Amy, the beloved wife of Henry St. Barbe, Esq., who died in 1621, which runs thus :—

She to gain love did Amyable live,
And Sarah like to her Lord honour give :
Bare him ten children, chastely bred them free
From superstition and impietie,
Answer'd her worthy parents worth, and dyed
A pattern to her sexe to shun vain pride !

But another temptation to which they yielded was a love of over-fine conceits. Take, for example, the inscription from the chancel wall of Charlynch, a lonely church on one of the spurs of the Quantocks :—

To the Memory of
MR. BENJAMIN VAUGHAN,
Pastor of this Church, who laboured in this vineyard
for the space of twenty-one yeares,
And dyed in the 80th yeare of his age, 1639.

Here reverend Vaughan lies, and canst thou see
His sacred urne without an eulogie,
Or pass him dry-eyed, who would impetrate
A sigh from envy, wring a tear from hate,
He merits rivers of them ; though the tide
Were pearls disolv'd, or cristal liquifide.

Less stilted and more pleasing is the following from St. Katharine's, near Batheaston, on

CAPTAIN WILLIAM BLANCHARD,
Who deceased the 7th dies of Sp., 1631.

Blanchard, thou art not heere compriz'd,
Nor is thy worth characteriz'd :
Thy justice, charitie, virtue, grace,
Do now possess a higher place—
For unto Heaven (as we read)
Good workes accompanie the dead.

St. Mary Magdalene's church, Taunton, supplies us with a quaint inscription :—

Consecrated to the blessed Memory of

ROBERT GRAYE, ESQ.,

And founder.

Taunton Bore Him ; London Bred Him ;
 Piety Train'd Him ; Virtue Led Him ;
 Earth Enriched him ; Heaven Carest Him :
 Taunton Blest Him ; London Blest Him :
 This Thankful Town ; That Mindful City ;
 Share His Piety and His Pity.
 What He Gave, And How He Gave It,
 Ask The Poor And You Shall Have It.
 Gentle Reader, Heaven May Strike
 Thy Tender Heart To Do The Like.
 Now Thine Eyes Have Read The Story,
 Give Him The Praise And GOD the Glory.

Ætatis svæ 65, Anno Dom. 1635,
 At St. Mary Magdalene, Taunton.

Sometimes an epitaph has had a strange history—buried underground, and lost for a time. Thus, an inscription was long neglected, and half lost, but is now carefully preserved at Old Cleeve church, near Williton, and placed in the floor of the vestry. The following inscription was cut round the margin of the stone :—

Here Lyeth the Body of ROBERT BOTELER, Esquire, of the House of Lord Boteler, who died the 4 daye of June in the yeare of our LORD GOD, 1635. His age 46 yeeres.

And beneath the family arms are the following lines :—

If a goode Life Leads
 To an Happy End,
 If both, men from the
 Grave to GOD commend,
 Then all will say
 In my Behalfe, now Dead,
 Thy Body only could
 Be buried.

Dust to the grave, to earth
 Earth thou Didst give :
 Thy Soule in Heaven : Thy
 Fame on Earth Doth Live
 Thrice Happy man ! Envy
 Cannot Denye
 Thou Died yet to live, who
 Living, Learned'st to dye.

In the course of some improvements in the churchyard of Burrington some time ago, a small tombstone of bluish stone

was found completely hidden in the soil, and bearing the following strange inscription, there being no name or date attached :—

In sacred writt on(e)
Faithful Sara's found,
But here lies two as
Pious in this ground.
Pious as primitive
In the first times—
Chaste, beautiful;
Both died in their primes.

What a curious record of some charming rustic maidens of the olden time, and of some quaint old Puritan who devised the conceit and wrote this epitaph, which no doubt he felt was quite a master-piece of brevity and pious learning.

A couple of tombstone fragments have recently been found in front of the old Court of Barrow Gurney. Both are mere fragments, but, strange to say, both are of considerable interest and their history has been skilfully elucidated by the researches of the Vicar (Rev. A. Wadmore) in the old registers. One of these tombstones only retains the words,

—
In Memory of
FRAN
Twentieth day of July, Anō. Dom. 1629.

This has been identified with Mr. Francis James, son of Chancellor James, LL.D., the builder of the Court House. The other stone has only

Here lyeth two departed from this life :
First the husband, then the wife : above 100.
Father and mother dear—that they was.

The rest is gone, but by a very careful investigation of the old burial registers, it would seem that this memorial stone was erected in memory of one John Horte, for we read under the date of “1615, Feb. 8th, John Horte above 100.” That such fragments should have been thus identified is very curious. The stones are being preserved.

It is interesting to reflect that some whose lot it was

in life to take part in some of the famous battle-fields of history have found their resting places in our quiet villages; where, whilst they yet lived, we can picture them to ourselves gathering round them a listening group, whilst they "shoulder'd their crutch, and showed how fields were lost and won." Thus we find on the walls of Chew Magna church a marble slab, with ornamented sculptured border, in letters which require "touching up"—

To the Memory of
MAJOR SAMUEL COLLINS,

Whose merit gradually recommended him to seven successive commissions in one regiment of horse; wherein he acquitted himself with honour and courage, in Scotland, Ireland, the Low Countries, Portugal, and Spain. To omit lesser actions, he had his share in the battle of Killiecrankie, the Boyne, and Agrim; in the sieges of Athlone, Galway, Limerick, Namur, Badajos; and at Barcarotta first proclaimed Charles III in Spain. By his first wife, Elizabeth, he left issue Samuel, Eliza, and Mary; and after 24 years fatigue in war, died here in the year of peace March 20th, 1712-13, aged 65.

Quis generosa putet nisi fortia?

This monument was erected by his two sons, Samuel and Emanuel.

But some more specimens ought to be given you of the poetry and sentiment of the early part of the 17th century. I picture to myself the learned old rector, rubbing up his long rusted Oxford Latinity, and sitting in his book-lined study, in gown and bands, carefully and with much toil preparing such an epitaph as this, which is carved on a flat ledger stone at Samford Brett:—

To the Memory of
MRS. LETTICE WEBBER,

Who departed this life June 2nd, 1669,
Now interred by her Husband, Mr. William Webber,
Sometime Rector of this Parish.

—
The mourning turtle here hath found
His loving mate lodged under ground,
Resting in Hope. Loe here's the place
Where dusty bodies doe imbrace.
Death once more cruel—now more kind,
The broken knott doth faster bind.
Tryth was her wealth, Humility her crowne,
Her workes of charity her chief renowne:

Something she left behind, lay'd up in store,
As tokens of her love to church and poore.
Let poore lament her losse, Let rich here see
A worthy patterne for their charitye.

Mors piis lucrum.

Often one grieves to think of the treasures in the epitaph way which are now lost, concealed behind organs, covered over with flooring or carelessly destroyed.

At Charlynch an old rector, about a century ago, had all the upright tombstones laid flat and covered over!

Often I am haunted by the recollection of an inscription, full of simple beauty, which is now buried beneath a "bran new" red and blue tile pavement, beyond recovery. But, instead of making my antiquarian readers sigh over their losses, let me lay before them some of my stores. Here is something quaint (from Hinton St. George), though perhaps one's sympathy is a little lessened at noticing the age at which she expired:—

Elizabeth Powlet lies
Interred here
A spotless corps, a corps
From scandal cleare.
Deny her not the tribute
Of your eye.

Shee a saint in heaven free
From misery
Beloved shee lived, shee dyd,
A maiden pure
A shame to Death her praise
Shall last endure.

ELIZABETH POWLETT

Died in the fortieth year of her age,
28th day of February, 1691.

But, indeed, when we examine the particulars recorded on monuments we may easily get puzzled. For instance, here seems a paradox. On a stone in Burrington churchyard we read:—

Here lyeth
JOHN JONES, son
Of John Jones, Esqre.,
Of this Parish,
Also

EDWARD JONES, second son
Of ye said John Jones,
Born Novr. ye 15th, 1708,
Dyed March ye 14th, 1708,

which gives the extraordinary impression that this child died several months previous to the date assigned for his birth. The solution of this problem is found when we recollect that under "the old style" reckoning which prevailed in England till the middle of the last century the year began on the 25th of March, therefore the year 1708 had not ended on the 14th of March.

A little knowledge of Latin is a valuable help to the "epitaph hunter," for the clergy in the 17th century were very fond of showing their classical attainments, and at the same time "airing" their Latinity and soothing their feelings by a learned-looking inscription. Thus at Broomfield church we find a clergyman lamenting over his three wives,—*"Ursula," "Dorothea,"* and *"Diana,"*—and adding,

Tres duxi, tribus orbus eram, tria funera flevi,
Uxorum, has Lachrymas siste Triune DEUS.

which may be Anglicised, "Thrice I married—thrice was a widower; over the funerals of three wives have I wept: stay, O Triune Deity, these tears!" This poor man seems to have been less cheerful than the celebrated Mayor of Salisbury, who had inscribed on the wedding ring of his fourth spouse, "If I survive, I'll make it five!"

Sometimes we find both Latin and English on our monuments. Thus, at Curry Rivel, on a memorial to a father and son, called Jennings, who died in 1625 and 1630, after six lines of Latin come the following six lines in English:—

If age or youth could quitt us from the grave,
Or all th' endowments that belong to both,
Wee would implead th' unequal fates, and save
The father for his age, the son for's youth;
But since in-tomb'd together thus they lie,
What shall I say but this—that all must dy!

One wearies, after a time, of these stilted conceits, and it is refreshing to select from many specimens of tombstone verse some simple words of affectionate regret:—

Anno Dom. Jan. 27, 1760, aged 13 years.

Undeck'd by sculpture's trophies gay
 This stone no flattering tale can tell
 Of her, who claims this simple lay,
 Of her, who fills this narrow cell;
 Save that in beauty's early bloom
 The path of innocence she trod;
 Save that her childhood found a tomb;
 Save that her spirit rests with GOD.

There is something very touching in the following epitaph; one of genuine pathos, which shall come next. It is in Nettlecombe church, to the memory of John Musgrave, gentleman, who died in 1684:—

Much of my welfare and content below
 I to my mother's love and vertues owe,
 Wherefore this humble grass so neere her bones
 I more esteem than elsewhere marble stones.

But this tribute to a mother's care may be well contrasted with one which speaks of good children, as you will see in this inscription from Chard church:—

Here lieth interred (expecting their Saviour) the bodyes of William Brewer, of Chard, phisitian, and Deanes his wife, who living forty years in happy wedlock, in full age departed this life; shee dying 8th of Nov., 1614, and hee 24th of July, 1618, having issue only six sons and five daughters, all men and women grown, and all comforts to them!

At Publow, against the wall, is a small tablet, with these striking lines:—

HENRY, son of Richard and Marth Jefferies,
 Deceased Oct. ye 23, 1684,
 Aged one year & five months.
 REBEKAH departed June ye 8th, 1696,
 Aged one year & two months.
 REBEKAH dyed March ye 5th, 1764,
 Aged 2 years & 10 months.

Death's steps are swift
 And yet no noise it makes;
 Its hand unseen,
 But yet most strictly takes.

For conceit and pride, we get a good example of “monumental cheek” from Dundry:—

In memory of WILLIAM and MARTHA JONES, of Bishport. He

died May 16, 1753, aged 81. He was a man of well-known integrity, and whose natural abilities were so great that by them only he clearly comprehended the powers of the human mind, and, unaided by academical education, was able to refute with uncommon sagacity the slavish systems of usurped authority over the rights, the consciences, or the reason of mankind!!

But in those happy days, when there was "no hurry about anything," there was plenty of time to write and also to read epitaphs; and as the rustics stood in the churchyard they perused with deep interest the lines which were engraved on the head-stones of their forefathers' and neighbours' graves.

Clocks and watches were expensive things, and that trying torment of the present day, "the punctuality-mad" parson, was unknown, and good folks loitered about the churchyard in pleasant groups, and learnt wisdom from the tombstones. There too they studied the records of old benefactions, and watched that they were not lost to the parish. And what funny ways good people took of doing good. Who now thinks of showing their affection by providing a sermon to be preached at their friends, as did Mr. Wright, of whom we read—

Near this place (in the south aisle of Charlton Horethorne church) lyeth the body of JOHN WRIGHT, Esq., who departed this life on March 27th, 1726. As a lasting testimony of affection to this parish, he gave to the vicar for the time being and for ever the yearly sum of 40s. for a sermon to be preached in this church on the 27th of March annually. To the clerk 20 shillings, for tolling the great bell; and to such poor people as have no relief, five pounds, to be equally distributed among them!

No doubt good folks often wished to give good advice on their tombstones; and dear old rectors, who had been preaching all their lives, liked to think that even when gone they could still "poke an admonition" at their parishioners from their tablets. Still I think the old gentleman who penned the following must have been a very useful preacher. It is found on the east wall of Stawell church:—

Here lyeth the body of THOMAS MOGG, rector, who died Nov. 27th, 1706. Believe aright, and live as you believe; and you cannot but die in safety.

But here I must give some samples from rustic tombstones in our village churchyards—regretting that modern scruplosity prevented this charming specimen being left to us:—

Neglected by his doctor,
Illtreated by his nurse,
The brother robbed the widow,
Which made the matter worse.

Thus at Porlock:—

PRUDENCE (1831) and JOHN LUCKEY (1834).

Long time in pain we did remain,
While old world's place we trod;
But now we're free. Death eased wee,
And Glory be to God.

In Memory of THOMAS RAWLE,
Who died 15th of March,
1786, aged 51 years.
Also PRUDENCE, wife of
The above named Thomas Rawle,
Who died 16th of March, 1786,
Aged 50 years.
He first departed. She for one
Day try'd to live without
Him. Lik'd it not and dy'd.

At South Brent:—

Here lyeth the body of
WILLIAM COUNSEL of this Parish,
Who departed this life
The 7th day of March, 1687.

Christ is our Redeemer
In whom we trust;
Our souls is with the Lord,
And our bodies in the doust.

At Abbots' Leigh churchyard:—

This stone can say what few stones can,
Here lies the body of an honest man.

But you will perhaps ask if there are any very interesting epitaphs round Weston-super-Mare. There is a curious epitaph from Wyck St. Lawrence church. The poor man whom it commemorates seems to have been lost in the neighbourhood

of the sea, and overwhelmed by the tide before he could extricate himself:—

To the memory of JAMES MORSS, of this parish, yeoman, who dy'd November ye 25th, 1730, aged 38 years.

Save me O God, the mighty waters role
 With near Approaches, even to my soul :
 Far from dry ground, mistaken in my course,
 I stick in mire, brought hither by my horse.
 Thus vain I cry'd to God, who only saves :
 In deaths cold pit I lay orewhelm'd with waves.

At Hutton, one to the memory of the son of Bishop Still. The bishop's son appears to have settled at Hutton Court, and the following quaint epitaph remains on a tomb adorned with effigies of himself, wife, and some of his children:—

In Memory of
 NATHANIEL STILL,
 Of this Parish, Esq.,
 Who dyed the 2nd day of Feb., A.D. 1626.

Not that he needeth monument of stone
 For his well-gotton fame to rest apon,
 But this was reared to testifie that hee
 Lives in their loves yt [*that*] yet surviving bee,
 For unto vertue, who first raised his name,
 Hee left the preservation of the same,
 And to posterity remaine it shall
 When brass and marble monuments shall fall.

Dr. John Langhorne erected a monument to his first wife, in Blagdon church (of which parish he was rector), and composed the following inscription for it:—

In Memory
 of ANN, the wife of John Langhorne, D.D.
 rector of this parish, and daughter of
 Robert Cracroft, Esq., of Hackthorne, in
 Lincolnshire: one of the most amiable
 and most accomplished women of her time,
 who fifteen months after her marriage,
 died

in childbed: May 4th, 1768, Æ. 32,
 leaving behind her an only Son, named John
 Theodosius, and a Husband the most unhappy,
 as her unequalled affection had made
 Him the happiest of men.

With Sappho's taste,
 With Arria's tender heart,
 Lucretia's Honour,
 And Celia's art,
 That such a woman died,
 Surprise can't give,
 Tis only strange
 That such a one should live.

—
 This monument was erected by her most affectionate Husband whose remains will shortly be added to her's and interred beneath this marble in the same Grave.

Dearest and best of Women we shall meet again !

If they did meet again, we suppose it was in the company of the two other wives with whom he consoled himself after composing this affecting epitaph.

At Nailsea we have a specimen of that taste for punning of which I have spoken.

One Richard Coles, who died in 1626—and no doubt had something to do with the coal mines there :—

The Candid Coles which kindly burned
 The warmth of mercy by their heat,
 To ashes black by death are turned,
 But shine their soules in heavenly seat.

At Yatton, on a Gypsy Queen :—

Here lies MERRILY JOULES,
 a beauty bright,
 Who left Isac Joules, her
 heart's delight.

At Congresbury :—

In Memory of
 CHARLES CAPELL HARDWICKE
 of this Parish.
 died
 July 2nd 1849
 aged
 50 years.
 And was buried at Hutton
 His Friends,
 Erected this Monument
 To record
 their admiration of his
 Character
 and

their regret at his
Loss.
A.D. 1871.

He was of such courage that being
attacked by a highway man on the
heath in this parish, Oct. 21st 1830
and fearfully wounded by him, he
pursued his assailant and having
overtaken him in the centre of this
village, he delivered him up to
Justice.

At Wedmore is a match for the Collins epitaph at Chew:—

Sacred to the memorie of Captain THOMAS HODGES, of the county
of Somerset, Esq.; who at the seige of Antwerpe, aboute 1583,
with unconquered courage, wonne two ensignes from the enemy,
where receiving his last wound, he gave three legacies: his soul to
His Lord Jesus, his body to be lodged in Flemish earth, his heart
to be sent to his dear wife in England.

In conclusion, at Wolverton is the following doggrel:—

The Lord was pleased His power to show
In giving me a mortal blow,
Which was from off a waggon's head
Crushed by one wheel, as it was said.
Let this my death a warning be,
The young or old, you plainly see
Must go, when death doth for you call,
Appointed time there is for all.

In connection with this subject, I feel it right to recommend
to your support that most excellent Society for the Preserva-
tion of the Memorials of the Dead, which is carrying on a
good work under the patronage of many leading men, and of
which the Secretary is Mr. Vincent of Norwich. You will be
also interested to learn that a gentleman of this county, Mr.
William Adlam, is, at his own expense, having a complete
list made of every epitaph and tombstone inscription in this
country. Already about two hundred churchyards have been
worked through, and a copy of this exhaustive undertaking
will be placed in the British Museum.

Churchill Court and Manor.

BY C. J. SIMMONS, ESQ.

COLLINSON, in his history of the county,¹ assumes that Churchill was one of the possessions of Roger de Corcelle, to whom in *Domesday* book it was supposed to pass as an appanage of a small manor therein discribed as "*Blachemore*." There is a small portion of the parish known as Blackmoor, but a larger portion of the land so named is in the adjoining tything of Burrington and in the parish of Wrington. It seems, therefore, improbable that any portion of the present parish of Churchill could have passed under that name.

Later writers have more or less followed Collinson's lead. Churchill was, and in fact is, part of the manor and parish of Banwell, and as such appears in *Domesday* to have been in the possession of the Bishop of Wells. So it has continued to be to the present time. In the perambulation of Banwell (which appears in the Society's journal, 1878), Churchill is unquestionably included. Banwell, with its chapelries of Churchill and Puxton, was, until modern legislation altered the arrangement, a peculiar, and under the visitorial jurisdiction of the Dean and Chapter of Bristol. The Bishop, as Lord of the Manor of Banwell, is vested with all manorial rights, such as waste lands and minerals. His title is recognised in the Inclosure Act, 35th George III. The owners of the estate, presently referred to as Sir J. Churchill's, and those who derived their title from this same source, recognized the Bishop's title and accepted enclosures of common lands in respect of their freeholds.

(1). Vol. iii. p. 579.

For reasons before suggested, it seems doubtful if Roger de Corcelle was possessed of property in Churchill, and the ingenious endeavour to connect Sir J. Churchill with his name needs better authority than has been adduced. In the perambulation of the forest of Mendip, 1298 (the original, in Latin, is in the Bishop's Registry at Wells), the "village," under the designation of "Churchford," is incidentally referred to in connection with "Langeford," and both described as the estate of Roger Fitzpaine), as having been disafforested by virtue of the Charter of Forests. In this perambulation different localities are distinguished as "belonging to," or "the lands of," "held by," "the manor of," "the fee of," "the estate of," "the property of," "a manor appertaining to," etc., etc. All these terms seem to have been carefully selected as appropriate to each place. Churchill and Langford fell under the category of "*the estate of Roger Fitzpaine.*" That portions of the possessions of the Bishop became vested in freeholders at an early day, and were dealt with as subordinate manors—or parts of manors—is evident, but no very early deeds showing how this happened are, so far as I am aware, known to exist.

The earliest deed (24th April, 6th Eliz.) appearing on the title at the present day is a "release of right" from Sir William *Sentlowe* to Ralph Jenyns and his heirs of the manors of "Pokevelston als *Puxton*, *Edingworth* als Edingsworth" and of "Churchill" (6th January, 15th James I.).

From Ralph Jenyns the property passed to *John Jenyns, Esq.*, who in 1636 is described as Sir John Jenyns, Knight.

In a deed dated 21st March, 14th Car. I., this gentleman is described as *Knight of the Bath*. He was succeeded by his son, Richard Jenyns, Esq., and by indenture dated 1st July, 1652 (enrolled in Chancery), he and Frances, his wife, and Dame Alice widow of Sir John, joined in a bargain and sale of the manor of Churchill to John Churchill, Esq. It would seem that the sum of £5,900, the consideration for this pur-

chase, was not fully paid until 12th July, 1655, when by a deed of that date Richard Jenyns released the purchaser from that amount. It is assumed that the "manor" so conveyed consisted of certain lands in and near the Mansion House, which appear by the church rate to have consisted of 132 acres, besides other estates detached therefrom, situate in other parts of the parish, which were held under leases for lives from the Jenyns family.

No part of this property is known to have been called "The Park," as suggested by one of the county historians.¹ Such a designation, it is submitted, could not at that day have been so applied to other than a *veritable* park. The "Park" existing in the parish is still known by that name, and is part of the Bishop's manor, and in it are the remains of fish ponds.

John Churchill, Esq., in May, 1654, married Susanna, the youngest daughter of Edmond Prideaux, Esq., of Foord, described in the marriage settlement, dated 13th May, 1654, as "Attorney General to Oliver the Lord Protector." The births of four daughters to Sir John are recorded in the register—the entries being evidently in the handwriting of their father, on a page of the book which seems to have been reserved for such family entries. The youngest, Caroletta (afterwards the wife of Colonel Anthony Hastings), born in 1666, is the only one whose *baptism* is registered here. There was no son of the marriage.

John Churchill was knighted in 1670, but I have not ascertained if that occurred on his becoming Master of the Rolls, which appointment he held.

In the *Bristol Annals*² he appears (it would seem by the Corporation of the city) to have been appointed, in 1682, Recorder of Bristol—"Sir Thomas Atkins, Recorder, having too much abetted with the fanaticks, did resign, and Sir John Churchill appointed."

In 1684, Charles II granted a new Charter to the city, in

(1). Rutter, p. 107.

(2). Evans, p. 223.

which Sir J. Churchill was named as then being the Recorder.

In the same *Annals of Bristol*, above quoted, it seems that in 1684, "the Countess of Castelmaine" (Duchess of Cleveland) "came to Bristol, and was attended by the Recorder, Sir J. Churchill," and Seyer, in his *History of Bristol*,¹ quotes the contemporary record that her ladyship "rode into this city in her coach in great pompe, attended by Sir John Churchill of Churchill, together with Sir Thomas Bridges of Cainsham, with their ladies; that they alighted at Alderman Olive's at the Three Tuns in Wine Street, and that she was there entertained at the costs and charges of Sir J. Churchill."

In the following year (1685) he was returned as M.P. for Bristol, in the first Parliament of James II, and died in that year, and was buried at Churchill.

It has been surmised that Sir J. Churchill purchased the property at Churchill, in consequence of his having been a descendant of the suppositious owner of the estate at an earlier period.

Is not it equally probable that the coincidence of the name of place with his own name induced him to purchase of the impoverished family of Jenyns, borne down by incumbrances incurred during—and possibly in consequence of—the troubles of the Civil War? Sir J. Churchill was, it is stated, connected with the county of Devon: his future wife certainly was, and the numerous instances in that county of the coincidence of the surnames of families with the names of their estates may have suggested to him the purchase. He must have been a young gentleman of means, and was doubtless a rising man in his profession, and may have entertained a hope of establishing a family—which, in default of an heir male, and also in consequence of heavy incumbrances with which he was subsequently involved—was frustrated.

There can be no pretence for saying (as has been said) that Sir John incurred liabilities in military operations on behalf

(1). Cap. xxx. sec. 19.

of the Crown subsequent to his purchase, at which time the Royal cause had for the time subsided. In fact, it may not unreasonably be suspected that, like his Roundhead father-in-law, he was far from being a pronounced Royalist. Certainly at a later date he threw in with the restored Monarchy. Witness the name of his youngest daughter—his courtier-like devotion to the Duchess of Cleveland—besides other minor matters disclosed by the parish accounts.

The story of the building of the house by Sir John, and the erection of the stable for the use of a fabulous troop of Royal horse is palpably erroneous. The few remains of the house point to a much earlier date, and he bought it under the description of the “capital messuage or mansion-house.” As to the stable or barn, as it was described at a later date, that also was probably built long before his time, and was such as might have been suitable for a gentleman of fortune for his own accommodation; or is not it more probable that the tradition as to the stable and the troop of horse may have arisen in connection with Sir John Jenyns, K.B., who might have occupied it for military purposes? The fact that he was knight of a strictly military order, and that during the years of trouble and civil war his estate became gradually reduced by heavy charges (a fact apparent from the deeds in existence) certainly points to such a probability, though I can give no record of the part he took in the Royal cause.

In no deed of any antiquity is the house described otherwise than “the capital messuage or mansion-house.” Nowhere, until comparatively recently, does it seem to have been known as “Churchill Court.” That there was a reputed manor of Churchill there is no doubt. It is so spoken of in the conveyance to Sir J. Churchill, and there were formerly leases from him of portions of such reputed manor, containing covenants by the tenants to attend their Lord’s Court twice a year to pay their reserved rents. So far as is known there was no *custom* of Sir John’s manor, and the leases seem to have been

arbitrarily renewed, and within living memory some such leases have fallen in, and the tenants have been denied renewals.

Notwithstanding that Sir John Churchill claimed to be possessed of the manor of Churchill, it is a little singular that by a deed in my possession of 1st October, 27th Car. II, John (2nd Baron) Poulett of Hinton St. George, granted to Sir John Churchill several closes of ground (containing 44 acres), "within the parish of Churchill, and which now are, or of late were, parcel of the manor of Churchill aforesaid, and also all the estate, etc., together with the rent reversion and reversions, herriott and services of the same closes, etc." And after covenants for title there is a saving clause, "such estate or estates as have or hath been heretofore granted of the premises, or any part or parcel thereof by lease or copy, to any person or persons whatsoever for one, two, three, or four life or lives, or for any number of years, determinable, etc., by me, the said John Lord Poulett, or any ancestor, or by John Ashburnham, Esq., and the Lady Elizabeth Poulet, his wife, or by either of them only excepted." This may be taken as tolerably positive proof that Sir John Churchill recognised Lord Poulett as holding manorial rights in Churchill. It may be observed that this Lady Elizabeth was the heiress of the Kenn's of Kenn Court, and that Kenn, Yatton, lands in Wrington—others (including the small manor of Iwood), in Congresbury—and other lands in Churchill—probably Clevedon and Walton-in-Gordano—came to the Pouletts from her.

That the successors of the same Lord Poulett exercised manorial rights in Churchill, is in evidence by a lease in my possession, dated 24th October, 1750, whereby John (2nd Earl) Poulett granted a reversionary lease, for two lives, of a house in Churchill, known as the Church-house—almost contiguous to the homestead of Sir John Churchill, and described as part of the manor—to George Bisse, Esq., for two lives, in consideration of a fine and reserved rent (expressly stating, "without reservation of a heriot"), but requiring suit and

service—and with reservations of timber—minerals and sporting rights.

It is uncertain when the “Capital messuage or Mansion-house” was first known as “Churchill Court,” but doubtless it was so only since it became (as it recently was) a farm house, and dismantled and mutilated to such an extent as to leave few traces of its having been a fitting abode for a family of any importance. The stable—except that some years since it was reduced in length—remained substantially as it may originally have been, until a purchaser of a portion of the property at a more recent date removed most of the distinctive features of the building. As to the connection of the former owners of the property with Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough, though a tradition to that effect has prevailed, it seems almost as mythical as the De Corcelle and Churchill theory—though this may be left to genealogists.

The Manor of Churchill.

BY E. GREEN, F.S.A., *Hon. Sec.*

CHURCHILL having been held under or from the Bishop of Bath and Wells as Lord of Banwell, its early history is somewhat difficult to trace. The origin of the name has been supposed to come from Roger de Courcel, who was a large Somerset owner in the time of the Conqueror, because he owned a manor of Blackmore which happens to be a place-name in Banwell. But the Blackmore of De Courcel would seem, according to Mr. Eyton's judgement, to have been in the hundred of Carhampton, and, if so, the above idea must be given up.¹ That there may have been a Roger as Lord in William's time will be presently seen, but his name was not Courcel, and did not become Churchill. Every early notice of a name is not only of interest in connection with the manor, but also as possibly leading to the identification of two effigies in stone, now placed in the church porch, judged to be of about, or soon after, the year 1280.

The earliest found official record is of 1282, when Bertram de Govys, sen., sold to Henry de Govys, three carucates of land, with belongings, in Kurchell, Berewes, Breen, and Burnham, with other lands in Wilts and Dorset, and the advowsons of the churches.² No church is mentioned by name, so that the advowsons cannot be even suggested: the expression, unfortunately, must be taken as intended to be legally inclusive, rather than special.

In 1286 there was an action at law between William son of Richard de la Burne, and William de Moleyns, concerning

(1). *Somerset Domesday Studies*, vol. i. p. 60.

(2). *Feet of Fines, Divers Counties*, 10th Edward I, No. 117.

a mill in Churchill, worth one mark, when William de la Burne was declared the owner, as successor to his grandfather.¹

A jury in another suit, a little later (about 1400), declared that Geoffrey Potter was a free man, and not *nativus* of John Tully as belonging to his manor of Courchell in Little Holford.² Thus there was another manor of Churchill, which now seems to be lost.

In 1416, Thomas Brook, Knt., died owner of twelve messuages, etc., in Churchill.³ These passed to his widow, Joan, who died in 1436.⁴ The property then came to Thomas Cheddar, who owned also, in 1442, the fourth part of the manor of Worle.⁵ Then came John Talbot (Viscount Lisle), owning by right of his wife, half of twelve messuages, a mill, four carucates of land, twenty acres of meadow, a hundred and sixteen of pasture, and seventeen acres of wood, in Churchill and other parishes.⁶ After him died, in 1467, Joanna, his widow, one of the daughters and heirs of Thomas Cheddar. She owned also lands in Kew-Stoke, Worspring, Uphill, and Locking, and a fourth part of the Manor of Worle.⁷ Margaret, her sister, widow of George Veer, Knt., died in 1471.⁸

The first found mention of Churchill in the descent of the manor is in 1447,—20th Henry VI,—when John Austell sold to John Tretheke, Esq., and his heirs, the manors of Chirchehill, Fitzpaynescary *alias* Littlecary, and Pokerelleston, which Alice Beaumont wife of John Fitzpayne held for her life; and other lands in Axbrigge, Sytecote, Banewell, and Welles.⁹

It is seen here that John Fitzpayne, also owner of Cary Fitzpayne, at some time before this date died lord of the manor of Churchill, thus taking the ownership back to, say,

(1). 15th Edward I, *Hil. Agarde*, vol. xxxiii.

(2). *Coram Rege.*, Henry IV, *Agarde*, vol. vii. fol. 16b.

(3). *Inq. P.M.*, 5th Henry V, No. 54.

(4). *Ib.*, 15th Henry VI, No. 62.

(5). *Ib.*, 21st Henry VI, No. 55.

(6). *Ib.*, 32nd Henry VI, No. 38.

(7). *Ib.*, 7th Edward IV, No. 42.

(8). *Ib.*, 12th Edward IV, No. 40.

(9). *Feet Fines, Divers Counties*, No. 255.

before the year 1400. The Fitzpaynes had extensive possessions, and much land in this neighbourhood, but, curiously, Churchill does not appear noticed in their holdings; possibly because being held of the bishop, neither payment nor service was due to the King.

John Tretheke held the property but a short time and it passed apparently to a daughter, who died in 1478, as Alice wife of Nicholas St. Lowe, Knt., when she was found seised of the manors of Pokeston and Churchill; the first being held of the Bishop of Bath and Wells by military service and worth twenty marks; Churchill, also worth twenty marks, being held of the same bishop, but by what service was unknown; and Alice, it was declared, held no lands of the lord the King.¹ She was succeeded by her husband for his life, and then by their son, John St. Lo, Knt. Sir John died in 1559, owner of Churchill and Pockerelston,² leaving a son, William, Knt., who, in 1563, sold the property to Ralph Jenyn or Jenyns. The purchase included the manors of Puxton, Churchill, and Edingworth; 200 messuages, 200 tofts, 6,000 acres of land; 1,000 acres meadow, 3,000 acres pasture, 500 acres wood, 500 acres of gorse and heath, and a rent of £10.³ Ralph Jenyns died in 1572. In his will, where he calls himself Auditor of the Dean and Chapter of Gloucester, he directs his executors to "provide one great marble stone to lye upon my grave, and a picture of my wife and eight children—five boys and three maydens; with the daye, month, and yeare of my buriall to be made and graven in latten, and fixed on the same stone." This is the brass still to be seen. The Jenyns family kept possession until 1652, when Richard Jenyns sold to John Churchill, Esq. The property was declared to be twenty messuages, twenty cottages, a windmill, twenty gardens, twenty orchards, two hundred acres of land,

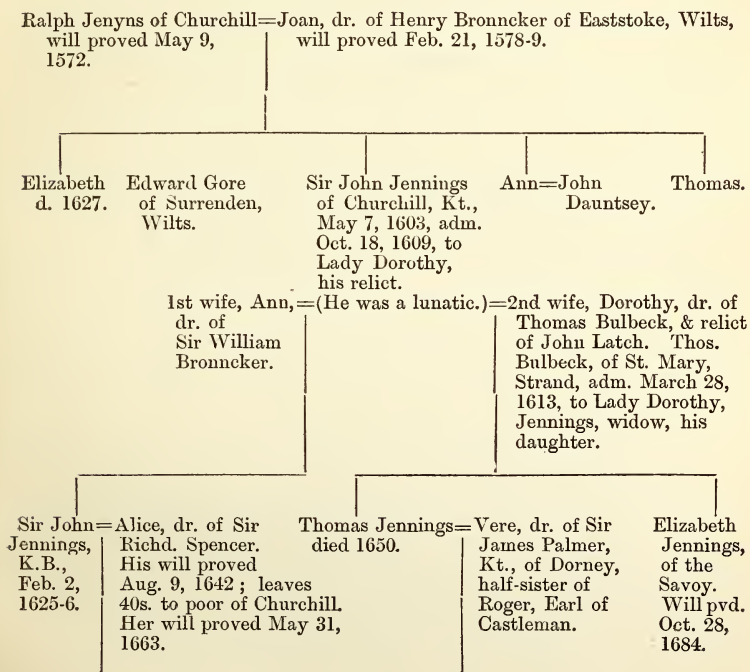
(1). *Inq. P.M.*, 19th Edward IV, No. 28.

(2). *Excheq. Inq.*, 1st Elizabeth.

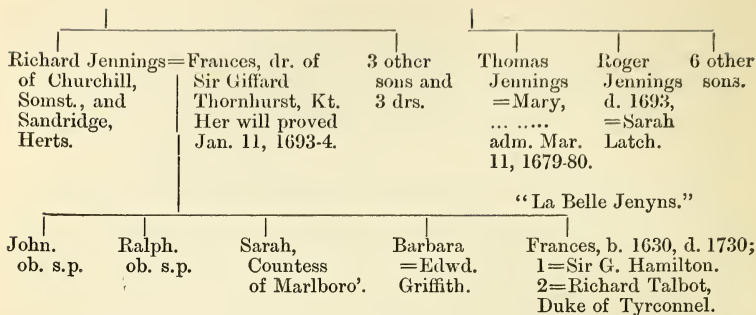
(3). *Feet Fines*, Michaelmas, 4th and 5th Elizabeth, No. 601.

sixty of meadow, two hundred and fifty pasture, sixty acres of wood, three hundred acres gorse and heath, common of pasture for all manner of cattle, and free warren in the appurtenances of Churchill. The parties being summoned to the "Common Bench," the usual warranty for title was duly given.¹

The appearance together here of the families of Churchill and Jenyns has excited some curiosity and speculation as to their position towards a later connection of the same names, when, the Churchill name being ennobled, the Jenyns property passed to that family with Sarah Jenyns, the celebrated Duchess of Marlborough. By the kindness of the Rev. F. Brown, F.S.A., the following short Jenyns pedigree will solve all doubt on that side:—



(1). Feet Fines, Trin.



It will be seen here that the property of Richard Jenyns, who sold Churchill manor,—he being afterwards of Sandridge, Herts,—passed to daughters by the deaths of his sons. In 1684, by deed of Dame Frances Hamilton, wife of Richard Talbot, Esq., “one of the daughters and co-heirs of Richard Jenyns, late of St. Albans, and one of the sisters and co-heirs of John Jenyns, deceased, and also of Ralph Jenyns, also deceased,” a moiety of the estate passed by purchase to the Right Hon. John Lord Churchill, Baron of Amouth in Scotland.¹ Lord Churchill, as husband of Sarah, the other sister, already possessed the other moiety, so by this purchase the property was re-united. The share of Barbara must have already passed to her sisters, but sufficient is shown here for the present purpose. Sarah also benefitted by her mother’s will of 1693, by which she received “all her manors for her sole and separate use.”

The exact relationship of John Churchill to this Lord Churchill will now appear in the sequel.

The mention of the “Common Bench” as the Court in which the warranty or purchase transfer of Churchill was completed shows that the time was the Commonwealth. Tradition states that Sir John Churchill—he is better known as Sir John, although not knighted until 18th August, 1670—stabled many horses at Churchill Court, and otherwise took the Royalist

(1). *Close Rolls*, James II, No. 36, M. 2.

side during the Civil War. It will be seen now that he did not own the property at that time, and consequently the story must be untrue. As the owners of Churchill were not Royalists, if horses were ever voluntarily stabled, it would be for the Parliament. Endeavouring to confirm this tradition, Rutter gives the fine imposed on Sir John by the Parliamentary Commissioners, but this necessarily must be equally untrue. The fine was imposed on John Churchill of Wotton Glanville, and elsewhere, in Dorset. On the 9th April, 1646, John Churchill of Dorset, late one of the Deputy Registrars in Chancery, prayed in regard he was aged, of infirm body and unable to travel, that he may be admitted to make composition by deputy. Following this, in July he stated he had resigned his office to his nephew, John Churchill of Lincoln's Inn; and then came John Churchill of Lincoln's Inn, and answered for the payment imposed on his uncle John of Wotton Glanville. On the 28th August the fine was fixed at £440.¹

This John Churchill of Wotton was the direct ancestor of Lord Churchill, who, as shown, gathered the Jenyns property. The only fine got from the parish of Churchill was from Sir John Pawlet of Court-a-Week, for his lands in Churchill, Yatton, Walton, and Kingston, "of which he had no power to grant estates, being the inheritance of his mother." In January, 1645, he made oath concerning the property, stating that the deeds and evidences, since the distractions were a great part of them plundered and taken away or lost, and the residue were in the King's quarters, so that he could not produce them. He was fined £90.²

As John Churchill, the nephew, who was the new owner of Churchill manor, was able to hold his uncle's office under the Commonwealth he was necessarily of that side, and no fine would be laid upon him. He later changed his party, and was

(1). *Royalist Composition Papers*, 2nd Ser., vol. xiii.

(2). *R.C.P.*, vol. xi. f. 778.

her father. After her the manor was to pass in tail male down to the tenth son, and in default, to trustees, for raising portions for daughters, viz., if but one, she was to have £3,000; if two, £2,000 each; if more than two, £5,000 to be equally divided, each portion to be paid at the age of eighteen or marriage, which ever should first happen. By "mistake of him who drew the settlement," it was claimed that the trust for daughters arose only if the wife died before Sir John without issue male; but as she survived him, it was asserted the trusts in the settlement never arose. Tooke claimed £1,250, his share of £5,000; and that Churchill, not being settled on Lady Susanna, ought to be sold. It was also prayed that the annuity should be charged on Backwell. The other side urged that there was no mistake made by the draughtsman: that no provision was made for the daughters if Sir John died before his wife, and they had no claim to the £5,000. It was denied that, "in his weakness," he was prevailed on to make this will. The decree, 23rd May, 1688, ordered a sale.

The second bill mentions this decree, and an order that Scroggs should be paid £2,500, due on his marriage settlement, security to be given out of the manor of Backwell, which it was claimed should be sold to pay the debts. But the decree not naming a time for the payment, Hastings, who had possession of Backwell, made no attempt to pay, a time was therefore prayed, with an order for sale. The order was that Hastings pay by the first of next term, or Backwell to be sold.

After all this, Churchill was sold, but difficulties as to title were still deemed to exist, the result being a private Act of Parliament, in 10th William III, 1698, entitled, an Act to confirm the sale of part of the estate of Sir Jonn Churchill, Knt., lately deceased, pursuant to his last will and two decrees of Chancery for performance thereof. This sets out a portion of the will, as follows:—

"I give and devise unto my said daughter, the Lady Scroggs, and her heires, all my mannor of Churchill in the said County

of Somersett, and all my lands, tenements, and hereditaments thereunto belonging, and my woods in Lincomb, and alsoe my new enclosed Parke at Churchill, to the end she may pay out of the profitts, after her mother's decease, fifteen hundred pounds to my daughter Caroletta, and pay my debts that my personal estate will not pay, for my debts must be paid. And of his said will made his daughter, the Lady Scroggs, his daughter Caroletta; Lancelot Appleby, gentleman, and Walter Chiver, gentleman, executors, as by the said will may appeare. Shortly after the making of which said will, and before the death of the said Sir John Churchill, the said Lady Scroggs dyed without issue; and sometime after that he, the said Sir John Churchill, dyed greatly indebted to severall persons, leaving behind him his co-heirs, the said Caroletta, his daughter; Margaret, the wife of John Tooke, Esquire, one other of his daughters; and John Wicksteed, his grandson, an infant and son of Diana, one other of the daughters of the said Sir John Churchill. And the said Lancelot Appleby and Walter Chiver refusing to prove the said will, the same was on or about the seaventeenth day of December, which was in the said yeare of our Lord one thousand six hundred eighty and five proved by the said Caroletta alone, who was afterwards married to Anthony Hastings, Esquire. And by reason of the death of the said Lady Scroggs, in the life-time of the said Sir John Churchill, the said devise to her became void in law, soe that the said lands and premises soe devised could not be sold according to the intent of the said will, for payment of the said Sir John Churchill's debts; for redress whereof, in the reigne of the late King James the Second severall Bills were exhibited in the High Court of Chancery, between John Tooke, Esquire, and Margaret, his wife, plaintiffs: Anthony Hastings, Esquire, and Caroletta, his wife; Sir William Scroggs, Knt.; John Piggott and Harry Roynon, Esquires; John Wicksteed, an infant, by his guardian; and Edward Prideaux, defendants;

and betweene Sir William Scroggs, Knt., plaintiffe; the said John Took, Esquire, and his wife; John Piggott, Harry Roynon, Anthony Hastings and his wife, and John Wicksteed, defendants. And also betweene Anthony Hastings, Esquire, and Caroletta, his wife, plaintiffs; John Tooke and his wife, Sir William Scroggs, Knt., John Piggott, Harry Roynon, Esquires, and Thomas Kirkeham, one of the creditors of the said Sir John Churchill, defendants: among other things, seeking reliefe in the premises, and that the said manor, lands, tenements, and hereditaments in Churchill and Lincombe aforesaid should be sold for payment of the debts of the said Sir John Churchill. Upon the hearing of which causes in the High Court of Chancery, on Wednesday, the three-and-twentieth day of May, which was in the fourth yeare of the reigne of the said late King James the Second, before the then Lord High Chancellor of England, it was ordered and decreed that the said premisses should be forthwith sold to such purchaser or purchasers as would give most for the same, to be approved of by Sir Adam Ottley, Knt., then one of the Masters of the said Court, and that the said Kirkeham, and all other the creditors of the said Sir John Churchill, were to come in before the said Master, and to prove their debts, which the said Master was to take and ascertain; which said decree was by another order and decree of the said Court, on rehearing the said causes, on the seaven and twentieth day of June, which was in the yeare of our Lord one thousand six hundred ninety and five, before the now Lord High Chancellor of England confirmed. And it was thereby ordered and decreed that the severall debts of the said Sir John Churchill, as well those by simple contracts as those by bonds, should be paid out of the residue of the personal estate of the said Sir John Churchill, and out of the rents and proffits and sale of the mannor and lands in Churchill. And by another order of the said Court, made on the nyne and twentieth day of June, which was in the nyenth yeare of his present Majestie's reigne,

it was ordered that the said Caroletta Hastings, in her own name, should have full power and authority, and was by the said Court empowered to contract for and make any sale or sales of the said mannor of Churchill, in parcells or otherwise, as the said Caroletta should think fitt, and to agree all or any the matters aforesaid. And it was further ordered that the said John Wicksteed, the infant, and one of the co-heirs of the said Sir John Churchill, after he should come of age, should execute conveyances of the premisses to be soe sold to the respective purchasers, their heirs and assigns for ever: and that in the meane time the said severall purchasers, after conveyances executed to them, should hold the premises to be by them respectively purchased of the said Caroletta Hastings, free from any title or molestation of the said John Wicksteed, the infant, as by the said severall orders and decrees may appear. Since which the said Caroletta Hastings, in pursuance of the said severall orders and decrees, and for the payment and satisfaction of the debts of the said Sir John Churchill, hath sold the said mannor and lands, late of the said Sir John Churchill in Churchill and Lincomb aforesaid, by severall parcells, to the severall purchasers hereinafter named (that is to say), to John Stokes, gentleman; John Selwood, gentleman; William Walter, clerke; Mabell Jenings, widow; William Arney, Thomas Pyther, John Lewis, Gideon Watts, James Brookman, Samuel Foord, James Rudman, Edmond Lewis, and John Gregory. Now, for the quieting of the possession and confirming the titles of the said severall purchasers, in and to the severall and respective lands soe sold to them by the said Caroletta Hastings, in pursuance to, and performance of, the said severall orders and decrees, as aforesaid; may it therefore please your Most Excellent Majesty, at the humble request of the afore-named John Stokes, John Sellwood, William Walter, Mabell Jenings, William Arney, Thomas Pyther, John Lewis, Gideon Watts, James Brookman, Samuel Foord, James Rudman, Edmond Lewis, and John Gregory, that it may be enacted, &c.” Be it therefore enacted, &c.

Thus ended a possession of thirty, or, including the litigation, of little more than forty years.

Some proceedings in Chancery in the time of Elizabeth may be noticed, as showing how manorial rights were used or abused. Thomas Phillips of Birrington complained that he was lawfully seised of a copyhold in Churchill, where the custom of the manor was and always was, "before the time whereof no memory of man is to the contrary," that a copyholder could not let his tenement for a longer term than a year, and then to pasture and not to tillage: nor could a copyholder leave a continual residence upon his copyhold without the special license of the lord first obtained: or, doing so, after such several warnings as had been customary, he forfeited his holding. Such licenses, however, had always been granted. Phillips being chosen a soldier to go into Ireland, and wishing to avoid all danger of forfeiture from non-residence, agreed with Joan Jennings, lady of the manor, on payment of a hundred and sixty bushels of malt, worth twenty marks (£13 6s. 8d.), that a license should be granted at the next Court, to dwell away and to sub-let his holding to a party named and accepted; and, in case of death, that the holding should go to his widow for her life, should she live chaste and sole, according to the custom of the manor. Phillips being obliged to leave on his journey and service before the Court was held, and so without a license, the said Joan, by and with the sinister advice of her steward, without regard to her promise, against all equity and conscience, claimed a forfeiture, to the undoing of complainant, "a symple and playne mane and altogeather unlettered."

The defendants asserted that the "orator" having left without a license, before any arrangement was completed, had forfeited and was out of Court.

The curious unique monument in the north wall of the chancel requires some notice of the Latch family, and in recording the following episode, it will be seen that some portion of the parish or district of Churchill formed still part

of the manor of Banwell. The earliest notice is of Thomas Latch of Churchill, who died August 26th, 1598, his will being proved by Joyce, his widow, in November of that year. John Latch of Winscombe died January 7th, 1633, and desired to be buried at Churchill: his will was proved by Johana, his widow, 8th August, 1634. William Latch of Langford died 18th September, 1639; his will being proved 12th May, 1640.

Thomas Latch of Over Langford, Esq., died 26th April, 1652; his will being proved by Robert, his son, 17th September, in the same year. He mentions his sons—John, Edmund, Robert, Samuel, and Augustine; a daughter, Mary Hunt, and her children, and his brother, Miles Wolfe. No wife is mentioned, but in May, 1657, the will of Sarah Latch, late of Langford, was administered to by her son Robert.

Samuel Latch of Churchill (clearly the son of Thomas) died in 1665; his will being proved 26th May in that year. He mentions his brother Robert, his sister Mary, and his uncle Miles Wolfe.¹

Some Chancery proceedings in 1624 show a curious family squabble.²

Thomas Latch of Churchill, gentleman, complained that he and his uncle, Edmund Latch, were seised of certain copyholds in Churchill; that Edmund for eighteen years, during the minority of Thomas, had taken the profits and so much spoiled the premises, that about Christmas, 1620, it was agreed he should take the profits for another year, in that time repair the decay, and then deliver up all, to be held solely by Thomas during Edmund's life, at an annual rent of £23 10s. This being agreed, Thomas, with John Latch, Esq., his brother, at Edmund's desire, entered into a bond for £250, to secure the annuity. Edmund, however, not only neglected to amend the decay, but further wasted and spoiled, as well by pulling up and carrying away the wainscot and glass of the house, as by

(1). Kindly contributed by Rev. Fredk. Brown.

(2). *Bill and Answer.* L. 4, 33 (Jas. I.).

cutting the trees and defacing the hedges and bounds, so that when Thomas got possession the land "did not yield any profit, but, contrarywise, put him to exceeding great charges." Edmund now agreed to surrender his share in the copyhold, the old bond for £250 to be given up by him, and a new bond for £300 to be given, to secure the same annual payment; but with an additional clause, that if Edmund survived Thomas, the £23 10s. should be £43 for his life. Accordingly, at the next Court, held for the bishop as lord, 12th May, 1623, the two surrendered their copyhold, and Thomas was admitted as for himself alone, with Joseph Latch and another for his sureties. Thomas then entered into the new bond and the agreement for the annuity, one condition being that the payment should be made within the church porch of Churchill. Edmund being then asked to give up the old bond, he replied he had forgotten it, but faithfully promised to send it, or to give it up whenever Thomas should call for it: he, however, failed to do either, declaring he would keep both, and so have two strings to his bow. On the 26th July Thomas went to the church porch between nine and eleven o'clock, to make his first payment, then due, but found that Edmund had been there and gone. He then "tendered payment, but none being there to receive" the money, he went forthwith to Edmund's house; but he, seeing him coming, went in and speedily shut the door. Thomas then called for him to come out, but got no answer. Two or three days after, on meeting Edmund, Thomas tendered payment, which was accepted; but Edmund, having the money, refused to give acquittance. On the 25th December Thomas paid another instalment, and in March, 1624, he went to the church porch to make another, but "Edmund came not." Thomas, however, again paid on meeting him, when he promised an acquittance, but never gave it. Edmund's object in all this was to get a forfeiture of the bond, he consequently continued and increased the annoyance. Thomas going again duly to the church porch between nine and eleven to make the next payment, was met

by several persons all claiming to be messengers from Edmund, authorised to receive the money. Being "thus perplexed and put into doubts, and perceiving the said practice against him," he entreated Edmund's wife to go with him to Edmund; but she declared he was not at home, "though, indeed, he kept himself away of purpose." At last she agreed that if Thomas would write out a receipt, she would go and get it signed and return with it for the money. This done, Thomas was left to himself, and waited patiently in the porch until three o'clock, but nobody returned. He then diligently sought out Edmund and tendered payment. This was now refused, Edmund declaring he had sufficient means to plague Thomas; that he would sue on both bonds, and deny all the payments made. Thomas then filed his bill, claiming for damages and spoiling £60, and praying relief from any suit on the bonds.

In another suit in the Exchequer about tithes during the Commonwealth, the depositions being taken by commission at Langford, 9th October, 1654, the Latches were again parties. The queries put were:—

"Did you know Thomas Latch, deceased, late of Churchill, Esquire?"

"Did he receive the Tithe in 1648-9-50?"

"What sums or contributions had been paid for quartering soldiers for the Parliament, and what was paid by reason of the rectory in 1649-50-1-2-3?"

"Do you know that the inhabitants of Banwell have been averse from paying tithes, or that most of them refuse or neglect to pay them or to give recompense?"

One witness said he had rented the whole parsonage for three years at £140, but had kept it but one year, and paid £60 only, being a great loser even by that. For the years 1644-5-6, Thomas Latch, Esq., deceased, took the glebe and tithe of Churchill and Pulberupps Barn, and he and the curate took the profits. The glebe was worth about £10, and the tithe about £42. He and Mr. Knapp, a minister, took it, paying all outgoings (about £7), besides £16 to the minister who

served the church. Mr. Edwards, a minister, had the same for two years, 1647-8; and Thomas Latch again, 1648-9-50, when he and Mr. Carney and Mr. Edwards, two ministers under him, took the profits; the payments being 26s. 8d. to the poor of Banwell, and 26s. 8d. for repair of highways. It was further deposed that by a warrant of 28th August, 1650, the trustees for maintenance of ministers had granted the yearly rent of £39 3s. 4d., reserved to the Dean and Chapter of Bristol out of Banwell, for maintenance of Mr. Edwards of Churchill. The witness had had a suit against Thomas Latch and another against Robert, his son and executor, which was ready for trial, but was then referred, and what became of it he knew not. Another witness said the tithe of Banwell was worth formerly about £80 per annum, but then not £28. At Banwell the glebe was not much, there being but two barns, not an acre of ground. The glebe of Puxton, about twenty-four acres, was worth about £15. Mr. Crabb, a minister, rented the tithes and parsonage of Puxton for £30 per annum; £16 being allowed for serving the cure.

Returning for a moment, a few remarks may be added on the effigies, for whose identification the early research has been made. As already noted, the manor has been found held by the Fitzpaynes back to about the year 1400, but the family being an older one in the neighbourhood than that date, earlier records must be looked for. Fortunately, in the *Bruton Cartulary* belonging to the Earl of Ilchester, there is an award, (deed No. 114), made by Bishop Jocelin in his 25th year (1231-2), concerning the chapel of Churchill, in a dispute between the Archdeacon of Wells and the Prior of Banwell, when it was settled that the Archdeacon was to cite to his Chapter the men of Robert Fitzpayne and John de la Stocke; and the other parishioners were to follow the Chapter of the Prior. Again, in another charter (No. 117), Thomas de la Warre, Lord of Rowleston, grants an enlargement of the Prior's Grange at Rowleston, free of all service, except the prayers of his house. This document is witnessed by Roger

Fitzpayne. In 1276 there was an action of novel disseisin by Roger Fitzpayne, as superior lord, against Walter de Molendino, concerning a tenement or holding in Churchill.¹ And again, it happens that in a perambulation of the Forest of Mendip, made in 26th Edward I, 1298, for the purpose of determining the boundaries of properties bordering on the forest, that the "Villa de Churchford and Langford," and the woods and belongings of the same were found held by Roger Filius Pagani, which is the Latin form of Fitzpayne. The perambulation is printed *in extenso* in Collinson, vol. iii. p. 59.

Thus we get evidence of ownership back to 1231, and a continuous descent of the manor from that date. Earlier dates may be looked for, and missing names filled in, when working out other Fitzpayne manors held directly of the King, but here only Churchill documents have been noticed.

This time of Roger brings us to the time of the effigies. Such effigies were frequently made during the lifetime of the original, necessarily representing him in his fighting prime, and either erected at once, or stored away for use after death. Thus, when the date of death is known, the costume of the effigy is sometimes found to be of a fashion obsolete at that time. Fashions did not last long; there were "mashers" in armour then, as there are now in broadcloth. The date assigned is usually that of the first appearance of any special difference; here it is judged by the round helmet or head-piece, which came in about 1280: the original may therefore be taken to have been living at that date. The knight then may be the Roger living in 1276—1298. But if no individual name can be certainly assigned either to him or to the lady, the evidence is fairly clear, and well points to the conclusion that these effigies are certainly Fitzpaynes.

(1). *Patents*, 4th Edward I, M. 34 dors.

On the Manor of Hutton.

BY E. GREEN, F.S.A., Hon. Sec.

FROM *Domesday* book, 1086, it is found that Hutton was granted by the Conqueror to the Bishop of Coutance. The bishop died in 1093, having been in rebellion against William Rufus in 1088, but the rebellion being unsuccessful, many Frenchmen left their lands, says the *Saxon Chronicle*, and the King granted them to those who had held fast to him. The records are few for these early times; only by chance can a change of ownership be traced; but having the above fact in view, with fair probability Hutton passed again to the King. At some early time it became owned by Le Waleys, or, besides other spellings, Le Walshe. The first documentary mention found is in 1259, in a suit of *mort d'ancestor* as it was called, between Paganus filius Johannis and Adam le Waleys for the recovery of lands in Ladewell.¹ Ladywell is still a place-name in Hutton. The suit implied that Adam le Waleys, as superior lord, had, on the death of John, seized and got possession of the land of the son. The latter then was obliged to bring his action to recover it, and to do so to prove not only his own right as heir, but also the right of his ancestor from whom he claimed to inherit. This system, which so often obtained, of using force against and ousting a possibly weak neighbour, is alway a curious phase in our early times; Paganus, as will appear, was here able to hold his own. Paganus, which is a pre-Norman name, was the then form of Payne. Paganus Fitz-John in another case may become John Fitz-Payne, as it did in neighbouring manors. Thus, in the *Gesta Stephani* and Richard of Hex-

(1). *Patent Roll*, 43rd Henry III, 13d.

ham we read of Richard Fitz-Roger and Pain Fitz-John, when the Welsh ravaged the coast of England in 1130. In Hutton, however, the name became and always remained simply Payne.

In 1272, 2nd Edward I, when enquiry was made throughout the county to determine the King's rights in the various hundreds, Richard, Earl of Gloucester, was found to claim four "the's," viz., from Stoke Gifford, East Harptree, Hucton, and Weston. This he had done for fifteen years past, but by what warrant was unknown. It was also found that Adam le Waleys, Lord of Hucton; Paganus de Ludewell, Ralph de Holdmixon, and certain free tenants of the aforesaid four "the's" of the hundred, had withdrawn themselves from the Hundred Court, but by what warrant was unknown.¹

The contraction "the^a" has been a puzzle to many. It is *theinga*, or, more clearly, *thaneland*—the land or property of a thane. With the later Norman scribes it lost its meaning, and, contracted, became *thing*; so found for a short time applied to a division of a hundred. It also became *tethinga* and *tithinga*; and so, when contracted, is our own word tithing. From its apparent significance, supported by its Latinised form *decenna*, it has been concluded that tithing means the tenth of a hundred, as the latter has been supposed to mean a hundred families. But the tithing is a *theinga* or *thaneland*, founded on property or acreage rather than households; as a hundred also originated in acreage, in hides of land, not from a hundred families. The names *Thane* and *thaneland* becoming lost towards the end of the Conqueror's reign, have come down to us as the better known Knight and Knight's Fee. The position shows that the feudal system, or something allied to it, was existing here before the Conquest. At the time of that event some Thanes,—the equivalent to gentleman or squire,—the smaller or less powerful ones, were able to make their peace with their new lords, and to retain their holdings. The

(1). *Hundred Rolls.*

Conqueror granted a seignury over many such in Somerset with the Honor of Gloucester. *Domesday* says that Hutton, in the time of King Eadward, was held by two Thaness as for two manors; but, unfortunately, the names of the Thaness are not given. Paganus of Ladywell may, however, have been one of them, as the name is found in the list of landowners at that time, although not in connexion with Hutton.

In 1279, there is a record that the Prior of St. Swithin, Winton, was summoned to show cause to Paganus de Ladywell why he took common of pasture in Bleadon, as the said common belonged to the free tenants of the manor of Hutton. The prior took the usual course for delay, and asked that the suit be adjourned and tried at Winton: not a profitable trip for witnesses in those days.¹

In 1298, 26th Edward I, in the perambulation of the Forest of Mendip, to determine the King's boundaries, Hutton is found held by John le Waleys. But now some transfers were made for purposes of settlement. In 1305, John le Waleys, sen., conceded the manor and advowson to Joan, daughter of John St. Lo, for her life.² Then, in 1309, there was another concord between John, son of John le Waleys, and John, son of Adam le Waleys, as for the manor and advowson of Hutton juxta Banwell, which Joan, daughter of John St. Lo, held for her life by concession or gift of John, the son of Adam. John, the son of Adam, granted to the aforesaid John, the son of John, the said manor and advowson, which, it was declared, after the decease of Joan would revert to John, the son of Adam, and his heirs; but after the decease of Joan it was now to remain to John, the son of John, and his heirs, to be held of John, the son Adam, and his heirs for ever, rendering a rose at the Feast of St. John the Baptist annually for all customs and services. And if John, the son of John, should die without heirs, then the remainder should

(1). *Placita Quo Warranto*, 8th Edward I.

(2). *Feet Fines*, Somerset, 33rd Edward I, No. 133.

go entirely to Cristine, his sister; and if she should die with-
heirs of her body, then it was to revert to John, the son of
Adam, and his heirs.¹ In 1314 it had passed to Adam le
Walshe, as, on the death of Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Glou-
cester, there was due from Adam, Lord of Hutton, a knight's
fee and a quarter, declared as worth £20.² Again, a transfer
was made to one Robert de Melewych; and Robert, at
Michaelmas, 1315, re-transferred to Adam le Waleys, with
the condition that if Adam died without a child or children,
then the manor was to go to the right heir.³ In 1349, the
property had passed to John Walshe, the service being now
due to Hugh le Despencer, but still valued at £20.⁴

How or exactly when the Walshe line ended, as connected
with Hutton, is not traced, but the successor of this John was
probably the last male of the name. The troublesome dif-
ficulty always is that Hutton being held almost in free soccage,
owing no dues to the King, the escheator or King's collector
did not always trouble to make the usual *post mortem* inquiry,
and so there is no continuous or direct record from the actual
owners. There appears thus to be no notice of the death of
John, nor, consequently, of his heirs. The manor apparently
passed to heiresses, as it is next found divided, and owned one
half by Thomas Sambroke, and the other half by William
Dodesham. In 1430, William Dodesham sold to William
Dodesham, jun., the fourth part of the manor and the fourth
part of the advowson, with other properties.⁵ William, sen.,
died in 1480, declared to hold no lands of the King, as he had
given his property by deed during his life. He must have
been an old man, as he had no child living. His son dis-
appears and his heirs were the descendants, the grand-children,
of his two sisters Johanna and Alianor, both deceased. One

(1). *Feet Fines*, Somerset, 2nd Edward II, No. 31.

(2). *Inq. P.M.*, 8th Edward I, No. 68, Memb. 50.

(3). *Feet Fines*, Somerset, 8th Edward II, No. 35.

(4). *Inq. P.M.*, 23rd Edward III, Pt. 2, No. 169, Memb. 73.

(5). *Feet of Fines, Divers Counties*, 5th Henry VI, No. 102.

heir was Alexander Pym, aged 22 years, as son of Joan, daughter of Alianor: the other was John Puryman, aged 10, as son of Alexander the son of Johanna the other sister.¹ These documents do not mention Hutton, and all trace of this divided half disappears.

As to the other half, in 1427, at Easter, Thomas Sambroke and Agnes his wife, transferred it to Thomas Davyntre, clerk. This was for purposes of settlement, as in Trinity Term the same year Davyntre re-transferred it to them and their heirs, but if they died without an heir then it was to go to the right heir of Agnes.² This helps to confirm the idea that it came to Sambrook by his marriage. This settlement did not come to pass, as Thomas, on his death in 1444, declared to hold no lands of the King, left a son Thomas, aged 26, as his heir.³

No trace can be found of this Thomas. This is the more vexing, as the time now following exactly includes the period allotted for building the older part of the Court,—the tower-house,—a time when documentary evidence of ownership is absolutely called for. It must be however remembered here that the times were troubled by war at home: Kings went up and Kings went down, and the life of many an heir was cut short. In the confusion, properties were sometimes transferred by deed not enrolled, and consequently the transaction is difficult to trace. When or how it occurred cannot then, unfortunately, be stated, but half the manor passed in some way to a Payne, the name so long associated with the neighbourhood.

John Payne, the first recorded, died in 1497. As the Court House, the old part, is judged to be some forty years before this date, its building comes very fairly within the possible Payne ownership. On John Payne's death, he was found to own half the manor, with half the advowson, and twenty

(1). *Inq. P.M.*, 20th Edward IV, No. 78.

(2). *Feet Fines*, Henry VI, Case 194, No. 22.

(3). *Inq. P.M.*, 23rd Henry VI, No. 45.

messuages, two hundred acres of land, forty acres of meadow, three hundred acres of pasture, a hundred acres of wood, and a windmill. Also lands in Elbarow, East and West Oldmixon, Uphill, Weston-super-Mare, and several other places near.¹ He made a settlement on Elizabeth Stowell, his wife, and left a son Thomas as his heir. The document states that he held no land of the King.² Thomas, the son, died in 1529, owner of half the manor, with the capital messuage of the manor. This is the first found mention of the Court. He also made a settlement of the property, first on his son Thomas and in default to John, to George, to Richard, and to William, or, in default, to the heirs of Thomas: a daughter Dorothy is mentioned. The property was now held of Thomas Newton, as of his manor of Westwood, by fealty and military service. Thomas succeeded and was living in 1579. He was in turn succeeded by his son Nicholas, who in 1604 sold the property to Dr. John Still, Bishop of Bath and Wells.³ This date corresponds with the period of the second or Jacobean house, which may safely be considered to have been built by Bishop Still.

The Bishop was succeeded by his son Nathaniell, who died in 1626, when the property again passed to others, and after several changes was purchased by a predecessor of the present owner.

There was a suit in 1668, brought by the parson of Hutton against Thomas Gosse, to recover tithes in kind.⁴ Gosse stated that for twenty-eight years he had been owner and occupier of thirty-nine acres and a half of meadow, of the yearly value of £22. During this time he had never paid in kind, but, like his predecessors time out of mind, he had paid an ancient custom of a penny an acre for thirty acres, called

(1). *Inq. P.M.*, 12th Henry VII, Nos. 5 and 6.

(2). *Inq. P.M.*, 17th Henry VII, No. 1.

(3). *Feet Fines*, Michaelmas, 2nd James I, No. 1383.

(4). *Exchequer Decrees*, Easter, 22nd Charles II, fol. 153b.

James's Croft; and for nine acres and a half, called Nine Acres, he paid two-pence an acre. After hearing both sides, the case was dismissed; so that the parson, contrary to the usual result in these trials, lost his claim.

Hutton was just without the forest of Mendip, and is usually mentioned in the forest perambulations. The forest laws were very severe, but this did not stop the ever present, apparently ineradicable desire in man for the chase. In 1255, at a Court held to hear such cases, there was a charge against Robert de Halle of Bleadon that he had chased a hind with his dogs, which hind Richard Trendale of Bleadon with a spade knocked and killed.¹ Robert and Richard judiciously, as they thought, did not appear, nor could they be found. Consequently, after the custom of the time, four of the nearest villages were fined: Hutton and Criweston paid half a mark, Lockeston one mark, and Banwell twenty shillings. It being given in evidence that Robert had some land in Taunton, it was ordered that this should be seized. Some time afterwards Robert was taken, convicted, and imprisoned. This being done, further evidence was given that he was now a pauper, when, presumably because nothing more could be got from him, he was pardoned.

(1). *Placita Forestæ, Somerset*, No. 1, 39th Henry III.

The Roman Villa at Great Wemberham in Watton.

BY REGINALD COLEBROOKE READE, M.A., ARCHT.

IN the month of March, 1884, a labourer employed in laying agricultural drains at Wemberham found his course impeded by some stonework set in mortar, which proved to be a portion of a regular well-built wall; the position is marked *X* on the plan. Further examination brought to light pieces of mosaic pavement; and the owner, H. Cecil Smith-Pygott, Esq., being informed of the fact, directed the walls to be laid bare, and the soil removed from the spaces between them. From that time the work of excavation has been continued from time to time, and the plan herewith shows the extent of the buildings unearthed up to the present date. This paper was written in June, 1884. Certain passages, which treated of points mentioned in Mr. Scarth's paper in the present volume, have been omitted to avoid repetition.

The first room exposed to view was that marked *E* on the plan. It is paved with uniform one-inch tesserae of white lias, with the exception of the space marked *e*, which appears to have had a floor of rough stone pitching. The room *K* was next opened, and showed paving of a far finer quality, the tesserae being worked smooth or perhaps even polished, and having border patterns with ornamental scrolls at the angles, formed in blue lias. The hypocaust in the chamber *I* was next brought to light, and from this beginning the work has gradually been extended on no particular system, but by following now one wall, now another, the greater part of the

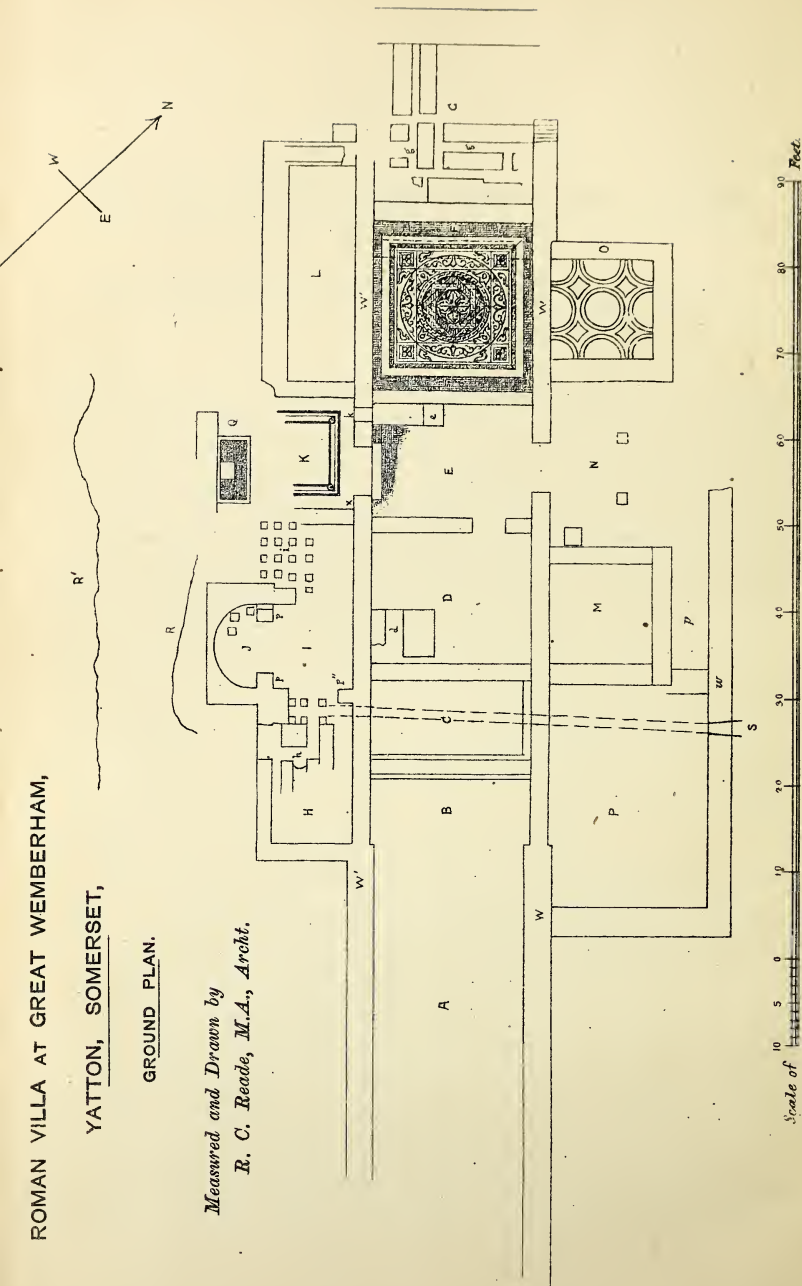
ROMAN VILLA AT GREAT WEMBERHAM,

YATTON, SOMERSET,

GROUND PLAN.

Measured and Drawn by

R. C. Reade, M.A., Archt.



building would seem to have been laid bare. About the beginning of April the beautiful pavement in the room *F* was discovered, and about six weeks later, that in the room *O*. Both of these I have drawn out to scale.

Perhaps the first fact that strikes a visitor is the close proximity of the Villa to the bed of the river Yeo. This stream is here tidal, and its overflow, which would probably take place at every spring-tide, is prevented by the "sea wall," which, being drawn along the whole of the open coast-line, follows up both banks of the river as far as the first weir at the village of Congresbury. In spite of the sea wall, frequent inundations, extending many miles inland, take place; and the statement by Rutter, when noticing the discovery of an ancient sepulchre in this field in 1828 is not unreasonable, except for the word "modern," viz., that over this moor "the waters of the Channel frequently flowed, previous to the *modern* embankments." Not two years since almost the entire valley was submerged to a distance of perhaps nine miles from the sea; and within the present century the salt waters have penetrated the neighbouring moor beyond the Mendips as far as Glastonbury, the quondam Isle of Avalon. The ancient Corporation, known as the Commissioners of Sewers, whose care it is to maintain the sea-walls and to battle with the floods, date the existence of their Court back to King Alfred. Does not the discovery of this Roman Villa indicate their claim to an even more remote origin? Before such a building as the one before us would be planted on a site liable to monthly inundations, it is clear that the coast-line and river-banks must have been protected by embankments at least equally efficacious with those at present existing.

In following the two principal walls *W W'*, which run from end to end of the building in a south-easterly direction, they were found to become thicker at the commencement of the chamber *A*, from whence they appeared to be running direct into the river-bank. So, in fact, they proved to do, and the

point at which they are terminated in my plan is that at which they strike obliquely into the bank or wall of that august body the Court of Sewers. In this direction further progress was impossible ; but from the position and tendency of these walls, I conclude that the space marked *A* was a dock or boat-house. The increased thickness of the walls, and the position, aligned with one of the reaches of the river and facing up stream, confirm this view : and it appears to me probable that the whole position and aspect of the Villa was determined by that of this dock. It should be noticed that the sea-wall is here double, and that the wall which intercepts the walls of the chamber *A* is not that which actually forms the river-bank, which is some fifty feet distant. I do not think it rash to assume that the water-way of the Yeo was the chief channel of communication for the occupants of this Villa, by means of which it was easy to reach the open waters of the Severn-sea, and thence the important stations at Lydney, Bristol, Bath, etc.


Next to the dock *A* we find two narrow chambers, marked *B* and *C*, with the first of which the dock must have communicated, unless it was a mere open basin between wharves, and not (as I fancy) a covered boat-house.¹ Perhaps the room *B* was a passage, by which the fuel and stores were brought into the house proper, and the chamber *C* a store house for these commodities. There is some apparent reason for this view, in the fact that the neighbouring chamber *H* contained the stove or furnace which heated this portion of the building ; the actual stove seems to have been at *h*, which hollow space was filled with a black substance, apparently ashes. The hypocaust extends under the whole of the room *I*, though the piers which support the pavements are only found in one part of it. Perhaps the flue passed round the apse marked *J*, through the narrow opening behind the pier *p*, and thence

(1). When the above was written there appeared to be traces of a wall between *A* and *B*. No such wall, however, exists ; and I think it hardly doubtful that the thick walls of *A* indicate the limit of the water, *B* being the wharf or landing-stage, opening into *H* and *P*.

expanded into the space beneath the floor at *i*. Here were found several pieces of flue-tiles scored with lines, so as to key to the mortar; also some roofing-slabs of thin stone, bored for iron pins which in some cases remain in position. A few bones were also found here, and a nest of egg-shells packed closely one within the other and compacted with soil into a firm mass.

The apsidal structure *J* appears to be so indispensable an adjunct to a Roman Villa, at least in this country, that it is somewhat surprising its nature should be a matter of conjecture. The prevailing impression appears to be that it was intended for a bath: but if it were a bath, we should probably see traces of drains to remove the water, but nothing of the sort is apparent. Perhaps it may not be amiss for one of the unlearned to hazard a guess. I think most architects will agree with me that the apse *J* was covered by a semi-dome, and that the piers *p p'* supported two columns, "distyle in antis," from which arose the arch which formed the entrance to the apse. Such apses certainly exist in some houses at Pompeii, and in some cases form the *encadrement* for the statue of a divinity. Is not it possible that this invariable form was retained, perhaps from some pre-historic model, as that of the domestic chapel; as the Penetralia, or inmost and sacred recess of the house; as the Lararium, where the figures of the family gods and heroes were ranged around the central altar; as the Focus, or spot where that altar, successor to the primitive hearth, glowed with unextinguished fire? Such is my suggestion. What may be its value I leave for general consideration.¹ In this room was found a broken piece of


(1). Since writing the above I have discovered in Mr. John Edward Price's account of the pavement found at Bucklersbury the following statements: 1—That the semicircular recess is invariably found in the Roman villas of this country; 2—That in a villa discovered at Leicester "a short pillar was found lying on the tessellated floor, which seems to have served as an altar, or to have supported a small statue; and it has been conjectured that this recess served as the 'sacarium,' a place of domestic worship where the image of the patron god of the family was placed."

paving, representing the "Svastika," or Runic cross , said to be the oldest and most wide-spread religious symbol in existence. Judging by other instances, I have little doubt that it occupied the centre of the apse *J*.

The chamber *K* is paved with a border of tesserae in two colours formed of blue and white lias, arranged in a simple but elegant pattern. From the absence of all indication of paving within this border we are irresistibly reminded of the open Atrium of the Italian villas, with the Impluvium or fountain in the middle; if that eminently Italian arrangement were ever employed under the inclement sky of Britain.

The room *E* appears from its coarser paving, its position, and other indications, to have been the entrance hall or vestibule. This would indicate that it was approached through the ante-room *N*. There is also a well defined doorway into the chamber *D*, and a broad opening, probably without doors, but half closed by a portière, through which the visitor ascended by two steps into the Atrium *K*. A small opening alongside of the one last mentioned, marked *k* on the plan, needs explanation. Here I would mention a suggestion, which will commend itself to the architectural mind, if not to the archæological. It will be observed that the space marked off and lettered *e* is not paved with the one-inch tesserae, which are found in their original completeness throughout the rest of the room, but with a rough pitching, similar to that in the chamber *N*. With some boldness it has been suggested by Mr. Hilton Price, the learned explorer of the Villa at Brading, that this space *e* might have been the site of a staircase. The hole *k* is thus at once accounted for; it must have been the opening into a cupboard under the stair. I believe this interpretation will come with convincing force to all with whom it is not an article of faith that Roman villas were built entirely on one floor.

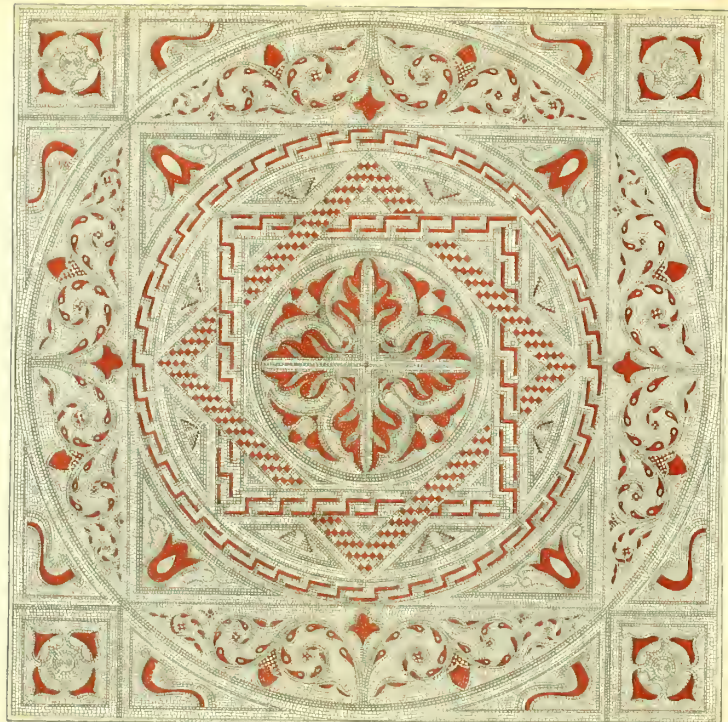
I have omitted the room *D*, to which I now return. It appears to have been paved with pink cement, but has no

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ROMAN VILLA, TATTON, SOMERSET
Scale $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 foot

R. C. Rende, del. 1885

traces of tesserae. The structure *d* appears to have been another furnace, a considerable quantity of black ashes being found in the hollow between the two masses of masonry. Was this another hypocaust, or may it have been a kitchen or domestic forge?

It is in the room *F* that may be seen the pavement shown in the large coloured drawing. More than half of this pavement when uncovered, was nearly perfect; but on removing the soil from the remainder, it was found to be almost entirely wanting. It is composed of the usual materials, viz., half-inch tesserae of white and blue lias, with cubes of red earthenware of the same size. Although devoid of figures or inscription, as a mere pattern design it exceeds in beauty any that I have seen in the works I have examined upon the subject. At the same time it must be owned that the likeness between this and other specimens of Roman designing is very noticeable. The intersecting squares which form so prominent a part of the design occur in many other examples, and are supposed to have a mystic signification. Whether this be so, or whether they are merely adopted as having a pleasing and crisp outline in the midst of so many curves, is a question I do not presume to answer. But I think it not easy to explain away the well-marked cross in the centre of the pattern, except upon the supposition that this Villa was the residence of a Christian, however natural it may appear that the intersecting lines of a square pattern should fall into a cruciform arrangement.

An underground wall indicated by the dotted lines runs parallel to the north-west wall of this room, apparently forming a hot-air flue for heating purposes.

The long, narrow chamber *L* would seem to be of the nature of a passage or corridor, by which access was obtained to the rooms *F* and *G*. The latter is one mass of channels, *g g*, which also formed a hypocaust; and quantities of mosaic paving were discovered, of a similar character to that in the room *F*, but in too fragmentary a condition to admit of re-

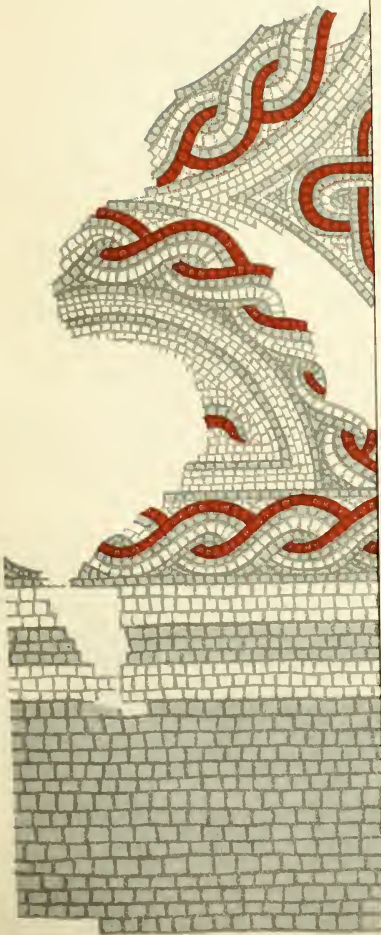
storation. The termination of this room, and of the building on the north-west side is not very intelligible. The walls *W* and *W'* come to an end as shown, the former being finished with regular footings or set-offs; and on the open side runs a broad band of pitching, which may possibly have been the foundation of a wall, but certainly does not look like it.

The chamber *O* must, from its ornamental floor, have been one of the state rooms; possibly the library or office of the owner, in which he could receive his outdoor dependents, and others, without their passing through the house. This suggestion of course depends upon the idea that the room *N* was the Prothyrum or porch, and *E* the Vestibulum. This idea was subsequently confirmed by the discovery of squared stones (shown in plan), which appear to have been the foundations of columns; also by the excavation of the wall *W*, which would appear to form a passage from the boat-house round to the front entrance. The rooms, *O*, *F*, *G*, etc., to the right of the entrance will thus be the family apartments; those to the left, *M*, *D*, *C*, etc., the servants' department.

It may be worth while to sum up the supposed purpose of the various chambers in a tabular form; premising, however, that the arrangement is of no more value than may be supposed to attach to the guess of an inexperienced person, who is more capable of judging of the nature of a building by architectural than antiquarian rules:—

LIST OF ROOMS.

<i>A</i>	...	Dock	...	Navale.
<i>B</i>	...	Passage or Landing		
		Stage.		
<i>C</i>	...	Store-room	...	Apotheca, Proma, Promptuaria.
<i>D</i>	...	Kitchen or Forge	...	Culina, Coquina, Caminus.
<i>E</i>	...	Entrance Hall	...	Vestibulum.



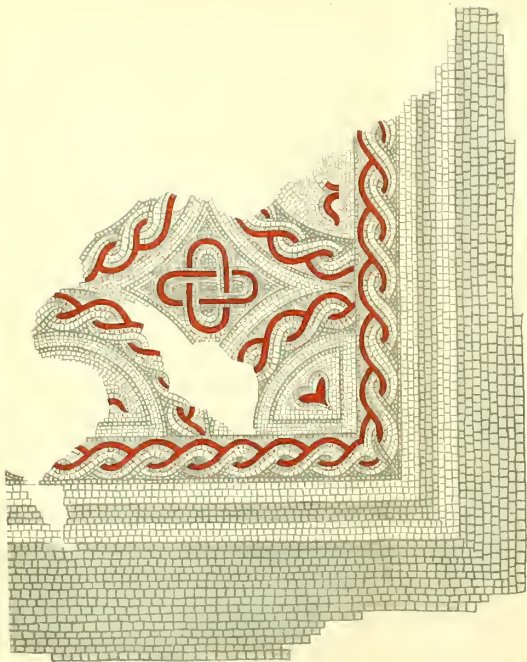
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ROMAN VILLA, YATTON, SOMERSET
Scale 1' to 1 foot.

R. C. Reade, del.: 1885.

<i>F</i>	...	Dining Room	...	Triclinium.
<i>G</i>	...	Women's Apart- ment	...	Gynæcæum.
<i>H</i>	...	Furnace	...	Hypocaustum.
<i>I</i>	...	Antichapel or Lobby.		
<i>J</i>	...	Chapel or Hearth	...	Focus, Sacellum.
<i>K</i>	...	Hall	...	Atrium.
<i>L</i>	...	Passage	...	Fauces.
<i>M</i>	...	Servants' Hall or Porter's Lodge.		Cellula Janitoris.
<i>N</i>	...	Porch	...	Prothyrum.
<i>O</i>	...	Library or Office.		
<i>P</i>	...	Small Court, leading through passage <i>p</i> to front entrance.		
<i>Q</i>	...	Bath	...	Balneus.
<i>R R'</i>	...	Traces of walling.		

Most of the rooms show the remains of a cement skirting of a pink colour, about six inches in height, bevelled on the upper surface, and from two to three inches in thickness. It has been fixed after the laying of the floor, as traces of it are to be seen on the mosaic cubes.

It may be noticed that the steps from *E* to *K* are still in position and perfect. The room *C* has a similar step, or it may be a low seat, on one side. Another point not mentioned is that the pier *p''* in the room *I* supports my theory of the division into family and servants' departments; it being intended to separate *I* from *H*, so as to throw *I* and *J* into the "gentlefolks'" side.

The system of heating employed in the Roman Villa has never been satisfactorily explained. My impression is that the central hall was thoroughly warmed by means of flue-tiles conducting the heated air upwards from the hypocaust; and that from the hall the warm air penetrated the surrounding chambers. The chambers *G*, and perhaps *F*, seem to have

had their own separate hypocaust; which is natural enough, these being the best rooms and the most distant from the furnace *h*. The smoke-flue from the latter can be plainly traced, and makes its exit from the building just above the footings, at the point marked *S*.

Outside the Villa there is a piece of wall at *R*, built apparently on the most irregular plan, but roughly following the outline of the apse *J*; and a mass of stones, hardly to be called a wall, being too rough and irregular for the rudest rubble masonry, follows the line shown at *R'*. This may perhaps consist of the *débris* of a boundary wall, the foundations of which have not yet been excavated. At *Q* was discovered a small chamber, which from its size, about seven feet by three, can hardly have been anything but a bath. It has a thick skirting of salmon-coloured cement, and is neatly paved with white tesserae, except in one portion, where there was probably a flagstone pierced with holes for drainage.

Other walls exist in different parts of the field: one of them runs from east to west, at a distance of about eighteen yards due north of the building. This may be a fence, or may perhaps indicate still further habitations, as yet concealed beneath the turf. It is to be hoped that all these indications, however slight, may be carefully followed up.

I now come to the objects of interest discovered in the progress of the excavations: and here I wish to anticipate all disappointment, by stating at the outset that these are chiefly conspicuous by their absence. Fragments of pottery there are, some of the so-called Samian ware; the greater part of a common quality. One jar, about four inches high, was found in the chamber *L*, in a tolerably perfect state. It contained portions of a human skull, and a dark mould which may have consisted of cremated human remains. Roofing slabs have been found, bored for iron pins; some of the pins remain: also, I am told, some pieces of glass, which I have not seen. Of coins, some sixteen have been found. Some pieces of iron

have been unearthed, one piece appears to be a key, another would seem to be a hinge—a spiked ring for fixing in a post (*valva*), to turn or hang upon a hook, just as our field and other gates are hung. This, with a few small articles of bone,—probably hair pins,—completes the short list of articles hitherto discovered.

The drawings here given are the truthful representation of facts; the notes, I fear, can only be valuable so far as they serve to render the drawings intelligible.



Raleigh's Cross on Brendon Hill.

BY SIR CHARLES E. TREVELYAN, BART.

ON pages 47-8 of the *Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeological Society* for 1883, Raleigh's Cross is stated to be "simply a land-mark dividing the manors of Nettlecombe, formerly owned by the Raleighs, and Clatworthy, the now properties of Trevelyan and Carew;" and then follows information to the effect that the Cross was fixed by the side of a dangerous bog as a mark of warning to travellers.

I venture to question both these accounts. Crosses were not ordinarily made to do duty as boundary stones, and still less were they erected as warnings against danger. I refer, of course, to stone crosses, with steps for prayer leading up to them. They have a distinctly religious character, and one common use of them was to mark the place where the dead body of some beloved person had been deposited on the way to burial, as in the case of the Eleanor Crosses.

The true explanation, I think, is to be found in our family tradition that Raleigh's Cross was erected by Simon Raleigh, who fought at Agincourt and was the last of the name at Nettlecombe, in affectionate memory of his first wife Joan, who died in Devonshire and was brought home to be buried at Nettlecombe. He married two Joans, whose decayed wooden effigies I remember on either side of his stone effigy under one of the arches in the Raleigh aisle in Nettlecombe church. The Cross was erected at the junction of four roads, at such a distance from the house and church as to render it likely the body would be deposited there, pending the completion of the preparations for the funeral. I recollect the Cross being removed about fifty yards, and set up in its pre-

sent place, the object of which was merely to restore it to its original position at the junction of "the Cross Roads," for when the enclosures were made on both sides, the lines of the old roads were so far departed from that the Cross was left under a hedge on the north side of the new road from Bampton to Watchet. All this is at least real tradition, which I got from my father and other of my elders, but I have no means here of verifying it. A woodcut is given in Pooley's *Crosses of Somerset*.

Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History Society.

1885.

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IV.—There shall also be a General Meeting, fixed by the Committee, for the purpose of receiving Reports, reading Papers, and transacting business. All Members shall have the privilege of introducing one friend to the Anniversary and General Meetings.

V.—The Committee is empowered to call special Meetings of the Society upon receiving a requisition signed by ten Members. Three weeks' notice of such special Meetings and its object shall be given to each Member.

VI.—The affairs of the Society shall be directed by the Committee (of which the Officers of the Society will be *ex-officio* Members), which shall hold monthly Meetings for receiving Reports from the Secretaries and sub-Committees, and for transacting other necessary business; three of the Committee shall be a quorum. Members may attend the Monthly Committee Meetings after the Official business has been transacted.

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May 1886.

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